Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

$1

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Hawaii health care workers decry lack of COVID mandates. PAGE 6

ARC's F&B back to daily operation. PAGE 7

4,000 ballots for special election

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Kilili: A dozen restaurants received financial aid.

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DFW intercepts frog that's deemed an invasive species.

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UNTAMED BEAUTY

Last week, Pagan volcano released low-level emissions that prompted the U.S. Geological Survey to upgrade its Aviation Color Code/Volcano Alert Level for Pagan to ORANGE/WATCH. That means Pagan is restive and is showing increased potential for an eruption. Fourteen Pagan residents were safely evacuated from the island last July 31, and they are right now staying with family members on Saipan after an uptick in volcanic tremors prompted the CNMI government to send two boats to the island to evacuate the residents, mostly people who represents the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

VLADISLAV MELNIK

Check out *Saipan Tribune*'s interview with Vladislav Melnik later this week to learn more about his latest adventures on Pagan.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:36pm, Sept. 7, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	79.7%
Days since last community transmission	168

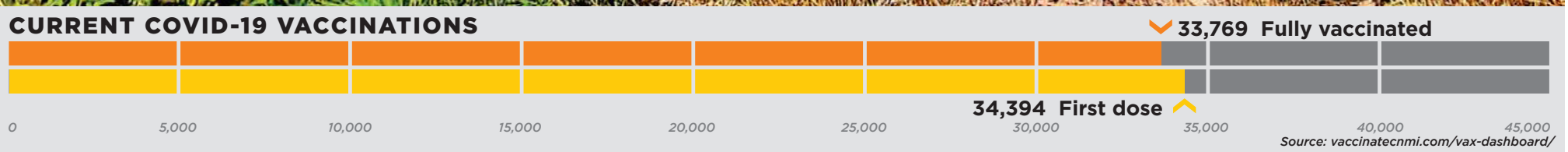
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,588
Fully Vaccinated:	28,706
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,806
Fully Vaccinated:	4,297
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	766

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	11,292	1	11,293
Recovered	9,126	0	9,126
Active	2,015	1	2,016
Deaths	151	0	151

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	248	0	248
Traced via Travel Screening	211	0	211
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS

The most intense tornadoes in New Jersey history all but demolished the largest dairy farm in the state.

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NATION

Hurricane Ida left many elderly residents trapped in wheelchairs in dark, hot homes.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

When confronted with the sudden realization that summer is ending, get grilling for a last hurrah.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

4,000 ballots will be printed for Oct. 16 special election

The Commonwealth Election Commission will order the printing of 4,000 ballots from a local printing company for the Oct. 16 special election to fill a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat left vacant after the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco.

CEC executive director Kayla Igitol said that, as of last Friday, there were 3,568 registered voters for Precinct 3, so they are going to order 4,000 ballots—an increase of 20%—to be on the safe side.

Since Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued last Aug. 19 a proclamation that called for the special election, they only received one absentee ballot request, Igitol said.

She said the deadline to request for absentee ballot is Sept 21.

The CEC board of commissioners will hold a meeting this Friday, Sept. 10, at 10am, at the CEC conference room in Susupe to certify the candidacy of Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party and Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party. The commissioners are also going to approve the ballot layout and designated polling places.

Igitol said her proposed polling place for early voting will be near the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan, which was also the venue of early voting during the March 2019 special election.

On Oct. 16 itself, Igitol said her proposed polling place will be Oleai Elementary School for San Jose Precinct 3A, and Garapan Elementary School for Precinct 3B Garapan.

She said the manual counting of votes will likely be done at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Registration is still ongoing and that the last day to register is Sept. 17. The seven-day early voting will start on Oct. 9. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Torres backs request to amend local law that doubles the license fees of e-gaming machines

» Owners of Club 88, Saipan Vegas willing to pay additional $500 in license fees per machine

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said Friday that he supports the request of the owners of e-gaming venues Saipan Vegas and Club 88 to amend the newly enacted Saipan Local Law 22-6 that essentially doubles the license fees of e-gaming machines.

In response to a question during his regular radio press briefing whether he is willing to repeal Saipan Local Law 22-6 considering the lawsuit and concerns by the owners of e-gaming venues, Torres said he understands that the owners of Club 88 in Garapan and Saipan Vegas in Chalan Laulau are struggling with the new fees. But rather than an outright repeal of the law, Torres appears amenable to the idea of a tiered increase in the fees. That means implementing the increases gradually over a certain period of time, say an increase every year until a certain level is reached.

Torres said he knows that the original intent of that law several years ago was to start at a low fee, which he believes was at $2,500 or $3,500, and that there was supposed to be a gradual tiered increase.

"But here we are. I know that they filed a lawsuit," the governor said.

MP Holdings owns Saipan Vegas in Chalan Laulau and the Saipan Country Club in Chalan Laulau. Mariana Entertainment LLC owns Club 88.

It was Mariana Entertainment LLC that filed a lawsuit in Superior Court to halt the implementation of Saipan Local Law 22-6.

Torres said he hopes that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation will return and reassess how the government can keep the company or any other potential companies that will come in.

Torres suggested having a working group to go through a session to address the concerns.

The governor said he hopes that Mariana Entertainment LLC stays here and continues to hire more locals and build business gross revenue for the CNMI.

"So I am amenable to have a working group and come to an amenable increase in fees," he said.

MP Holdings LLC vice president Bartley A. Jackson wrote SNILD chair Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) last Aug. 18, requesting on behalf of the owners and employees of Saipan Vegas and Club 88 to have Saipan Local Law 22-6 amended.

Jackson said Saipan Vegas and Club 88 are willing to pay an additional $500 license fee per machine for the use by the local delegation. "This fee becomes effective upon each license renewal," he said.

Jackson said the new tax imposed by Saipan Local Law 22-6 will force Saipan Vegas and Club 88 to permanently shut down and leave over a 100 local people jobless and unable to take care of their families.

Saipan Local Law 22-6 imposed a $2,500 tax or 15% of net gaming proceeds, whichever is greater, on all electronic gaming devices on Saipan, including poker amusement machines within e-gaming facilities or hotels. This is on top of the $2,500 license fee these companies are already paying to the government for each machine. In effect, this doubles the license fees of e-gaming devices.

The owner of Club 88 recently announced that it is holding its planned Aug. 27 closure in abeyance while proposed changes to Saipan Local Law 22-6 are on the table of the SNILD.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who is handling the Mariana Entertainment lawsuit in Superior Court, has encouraged SNILD and e-gaming venues owners Mariana Entertainment LLC and MP Holdings LLC to discuss the effects of the bill. The next court hearing is on Sept. 16.

The owners of Club 88 and Saipan Vegas also filed an ethics complaint before House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) based on Yumul's participation in the legislative process that led to the enactment of House

See TORRES on Next Page

Power service interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021, from 9am to 12pm affecting MacArthur Drive, Treaty Lane and Constitution Place in Gualo Rai

■ Water well(s)/village(s) affected: GR-151 and GR-154 wells. The Gualo Rai area may be affected based on tank level.

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To replace a leaning, rotted primary power pole and to install an anchor to secure the pole.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(PR)***

TORRES

From Page 2

Saipan Local Bill 22-8 into Saipan Local Law 22-6.

They said Yumul introduced the bill despite previously acknowledging that he has a conflict of interest because his brother, Ray N. Yumul, is the chief executive officer of their competitor, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

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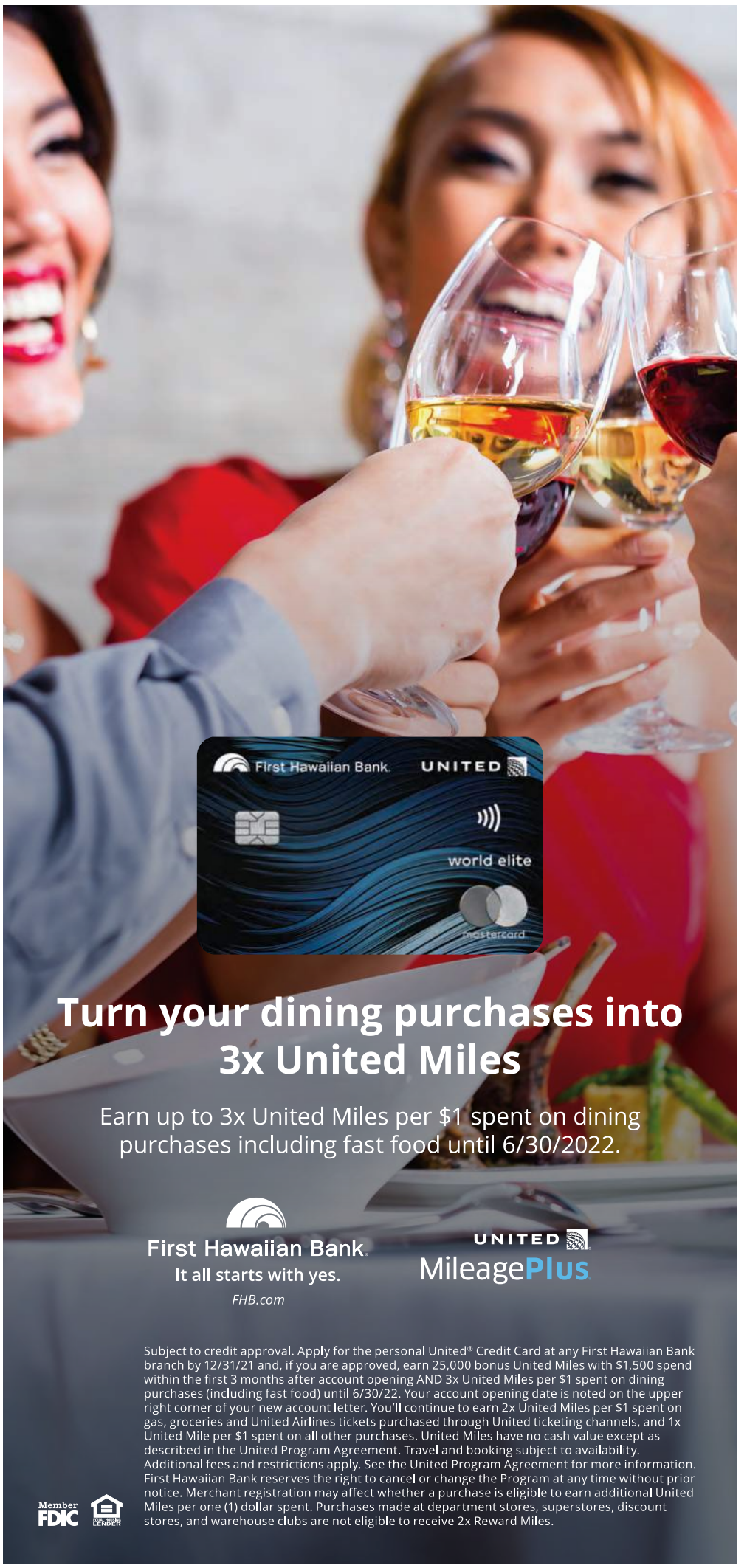

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Mileage: 6,391
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STOCK #: SP21R0094
Trans: 8-Speed Automatic w/OD, FWD
Mileage: 39,163
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2015 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
STOCK #: SP21P0101
Sr5 w/ 3rd row, Trans: 5-speed Automatic Transmission, Mileage: 63,245
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2017 TOYOTA RAV4 HYBRID AWD
STOCK #: SP21P0111
Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD,
Mileage: 94,100
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BOOSTER SHOTS FOR THE PUBLIC?

CHCC still waiting on OK from FDA and CDC

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal government has mandated implementing booster shots for the COVID-19 vaccines starting in the week of Sept. 20, but the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has yet to announce when such booster shots will be made available to the general public in the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune was told yesterday that CHCC is currently waiting on guidance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the matter. Currently, CHCC is already offering booster shots for the CNMI's immunocompromised.

Booster shots are an additional shot of a vaccine that is administered to further increase an individual's protection from certain viruses and bacteria. In terms of COVID-19, a third shot of a COVID-19 vaccine would allow for better protection from the virus' many variants.

Last Aug. 18 CHCC announced that it will begin offering a third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for those in the CNMI who are moderate to severely immunocompromised—those with impaired immune systems either from a disease or a medication they are taking.

CHCC on Aug. 18 also announced that the third dose must be administered at least 28 days after an individual received their two shots of Pfizer's or Moderna's vaccines. At the time, CHCC said that there is no additional dose advised for those who received a Johnson & Johnson or Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, and shared that the CDC does not recommend additional doses or booster shots of a COVID-19 vaccine for those who are not immunocompromised.

$2M helps low-income, first-gen college students succeed

Low-income middle and high school students in Guam and those who would be first-generation college students will continue to have support in pursuing and completing higher education following a renewed grant award for the Talent Search program. The program, one of three federal TRIO programs for Guam students operated by the University of Guam, will receive $409,407 from the U.S. Department of Education every year for five years starting last Sept. 1.

"The program recognizes that students whose parents do not have a college degree have more difficulties navigating the complexity of college," said Lawrence Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success at the university. "The program reaches out to students who will be first-generation college students or are otherwise underserved and gets them excited and prepared to pursue higher education."

As a "talent search," the program identifies middle and high school students who have the potential to succeed in higher education and mentors them in study skills, financial literacy, and career exploration. Participants also have access to in-school counselors to help them with college admission requirements, scholarships, and financial aid.

Guam's program helps more than 700 students per year—at least two-thirds of whom are from low-income backgrounds and families in which neither parent has a completed a bachelor›s degree.

Darlene Ferrer, a TRIO Talent Search participant from 2013-2018, on the University of California Los Angeles campus during a summer undergraduate program for future health professionals that she was selected for while majoring in biology and chemistry at the University of Guam. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Middle and high school students enrolled in the TRIO Talent Search program listen to a guest speaker during a workshop over Christmas break in 2019. The program mentors students with potential to succeed in higher education, the majority of whom are low-income or will be first-generation college students. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

"Talent Search helped me tremendously in achieving my goals, in navigating my college transition, and earning my college degree," said Erickson Aquino, a Talent Search alumnus who is now a senior academic assistant for the program.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 80% of Talent Search participants enroll in postsecondary institutions immediately following high school graduation.

Past participants in Guam's program have gone on to enroll at institutions including the University of Guam, Georgetown University, the University of Portland, the University of Southern California, and many others.

Program alumni have been accepted into prestigious undergraduate opportunities, like University of Guam biology-chemistry major Darlene Ferrer, who was accepted into multiple competitive programs, including the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute's Undergraduate Summer Research Program, and UOG biology major Kyle Dahilig, who was selected for the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Another program alumna, Norma Elizaga, recently earned her Doctor of Medicine from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Talent Search is one of eight federal TRIO programs authorized by the Higher Education Act to help college students succeed in higher education. It has operated in Guam through the University of Guam since 1992 assisting more than 15,000 students.

Middle and high school students interested in college preparatory guidance and mentorship through the TRIO Talent Search program may call (671) 735-2246, email trioets@triton.uog.edu, or visit the TRIO office in the Calvo Field House at the University of Guam. More information can also be found at www.uog.edu/trio-program. ***(PR)***

Talent Search participants during a summer enrichment program in 2019. Standing, from left, Danishia Joab, Denzyl Ngiralmau, Julie Laxamana, Reavan Nallano, Chasity Butler, Mia Aguilar, Gerylee Bueno, Cory Quintanilla, Larry Rosario, guest speakers Criskha Caballero and Eries Moreno, Heaven Belleno, Jaden Rose Belga, Mel Joy Baldoz, Ha'ani Peredo, Bethany Morh, and Bethany Betito. Seated, from left, Jean Bactad, Daniela Ferrer, Roe Manalac, Louise Pascua, Kieurstyn Camacho, and Maria Reyes. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

A dozen restaurants applied, received federal financial aid

» Kilili says Northern Marianas also allocated $14.27M from Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) disclosed over the weekend that a dozen restaurants in the Marianas that were badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic applied for and received financial aid from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, which was created by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Sablan

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan said 12 restaurants availed of the financial aid, based on the latest data from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

He said the grants in the Marianas ranged from $37,128 to $348,277.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund provides a total of $28.6 billion in direct relief funds to restaurants and other hard-hit food establishments that have experienced economic distress and significant operational losses due to the pandemic.

"The money does not have to be repaid as long as it is used to cover payroll, rent, utilities, and other eligible uses," Sablan said.

The U.S. Small Business Administration began registrations on April 30, 2021.

Meanwhile, Sablan said the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced last Wednesday that the Northern Marianas has been allocated $14,275,714 from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.

He said ARPA of 2021 provided $100 million equally divided among the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the three Freely Associated States (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and Marshall Islands).

Sablan said the money can be used for investments in high-quality broadband and other connectivity infrastructure.

He said funds may also invested in critical community hubs or capital assets that provide access jointly to work, education, and health monitoring.

DFW intercepts frog that's deemed an invasive species

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife recently intercepted one coqui frog that hopped onto a Micronesia Air Cargo Services plane.

Kevin Kapileo, who is a K9 trainee for DFW's Brown Tree Snake Conservation team, intercepted the lone frog at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Friday. The frog has since been contained and preserved in a jar, and will be used by DFW for sampling and research.

The lone coqui frog that the Division of Fish and Wildlife intercepted last Friday floats in a jar of preservative liquid. The frog jumped onto a cargo plane and was intercepted at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Friday by DFW's Kevin Kapileo. While only being slightly larger than an inch when fully grown, the frog is marked as invasive species due to the very loud calls males make at night and the severe effects the species can have on a native ecosystem's insect and bug populations.

JOSHUA SANTOS

The coqui frog is an invasive species native to Puerto Rico that was introduced to Guam and Hawaii in early 2000. While only being slightly larger than an inch when fully grown, the frog is marked as invasive species due to the very loud calls males make at night and the severe effects the species can have on a native ecosystem's insect and bug populations.

DFW director Manny Pangelinan highlighted yesterday the work of Kapileo and others at DFW who prevent invasive species such as brown tree snakes and the coqui frog from wreaking havoc on the CNMI's native ecosystems. Pangelinan also urged DFW's partners to maintain vigilance when conducting inspections.

"We make our island [and its ecosystems] what it is by doing our job. If we're not vigilant in conducting these types of inspections, we might see a lot of new pests: those that are friendly, those that are less friendly, and those that are dangerous," said Pangelinan.

September is Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

September is Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month, and the Carolinian Affairs Office and the Indigenous Affairs Office will be holding many events throughout the month to showcase the CNMI's unique cultures and traditions. There will be multiple school outreaches, concerts, an "Island Cuisine Night," and a memorial Mass on Sept. 23 commemorating the 35th anniversary of the 13 fishermen who were lost at sea on Sept. 23, 1986. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios made the commemoration official during a proclamation signing yesterday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Alongside Torres and Palacios, notable guests yesterday included House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, Reps. Denita K. Yangetmai and Vicente C. Camacho, Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan, and 500 Sails co-founder Emma Perez.

The event featured remarks from Torres, Palacios, and leads from the CAO and IAO. Remarks were delivered in Chamorro, Carolinian, and English. CAO executive assistant John Tagubuel and Palacios briefly spoke in English yesterday.

Tagubuel said that "language starts from home," and made a call to action for the CNMI's Carolinian community fluent in the language to go out and apply to be Carolinian language teachers. Tagubuel noted that there are only four public school teachers teaching Carolinian.

"Our language is all we have. It is our identity. It's what keeps us together as a whole. If we don't know where we're from, then we can't move forward, we can't move far. ...If you want to speak Chamorro or Carolinian, let's do it, and let's be proud," said Tagubuel.

Palacios looked back on the multiple periods of colonization in the CNMI's history, and lauded the present-day efforts of the CAO, IAO, and NMHC "for trying their best to perpetuate our culture." As multiracial communities continue to be on the rise, Palacios added that it is important now that the CNMI's Chamorro and Carolinian communities see the value of being Chamorro and Carolinian.

"We need to awaken ourselves and value the uniqueness of being a Chamorro or Refaluwasch [Carolinian]. We need to put value into who we are as a people," said Palacios.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gives brief remarks before proclaiming September 2021 as Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month in a proclamation signing yesterday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Also pictured is Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left of Torres, and Carolinian Affairs Office executive assistant John Tagabuel, right of Torres.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Francisca N. Hossain and Jafar Hossain
P.O. Box 502311, Chalan Kanoa
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 783-5250/287-5054

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petitioner for the Change of Name of: Amzad Jafar H. Nebrida A Minor Child By: Francisca N. Hossain and Jafar Hossain Petitioner(s)

FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0265

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 18, 2021, at 9:00am in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
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P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-1615 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner Estelle A. Hofschneider

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF HEDWIG HENRY ATALIG HOFSCHNEIDER, Deceased.

Civil Action 21-0240-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: September 23, 2021
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE HEDWIG HENRY ATALIG HOFSCHNEIDER, OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Estelle A. Hofschneider has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Hedwig Henry Atalig Hofschneider, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON**, Attorney at Law, at the address above indicated.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Hawaii health care workers decry lack of COVID mandates

HONOLULU (AP)—Health care workers in Hawaii say a lack of government action is worsening an already crippling surge of coronavirus cases in the islands, and without effective policy changes the state's limited hospitals could face a grim crisis.

"Soon we're going to be in a situation where we're going to ration health care," said Dr. Jonathan Dworkin, an infectious diseases specialist in Hawaii.

Dworkin said that while mandates may be unpopular, rationing Hawaii's limited health care resources is "going to be far more ugly."

"It involves making decisions about who lives and dies," he said. "I hate the idea of having to make a decision about who's going to get oxygen."

Another stay-at-home order may be needed, Dworkin said.

"I don't like the idea of doing that, but we're in a situation where the hospitals are very strained, where care for non-COVID patients is becoming very difficult, where we're in danger of running out of oxygen."

Doctors across the state have made recommendations that they say could help Hawaii curb the spread of the delta variant.

They say the state has failed to implement a variety of measures officials agreed to last year, including ramping up rapid testing, installing better air filtration systems in schools and businesses and improving contact tracing.

Some believe a more robust screening process for travelers, including two tests, one before travel and another after arrival, could also help slow the spread of COVID-19.

"For an island state not to take border control seriously is, in my mind, an epidemiological crime," Dworkin added. However, "the best impact for strict border control would have been a few months ago."

Before July, Hawaii reported a seven-day average of 46 daily cases. On Friday, that number stood at 881. And even as hospitals fill up and morgues bring in portable containers for bodies, leaders have made virtually no major changes in policy.

> **"The state of Hawaii is struggling with an unprecedented and disastrous surge in COVID-19 cases. Our hospitals are being pushed to the limit."**
>
> **—Hawaii Gov. David Ige**

The state recently announced that groups larger than 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors could not gather, but a party of more than 300 people that was broken up by police on a beach last weekend went without any citations for COVID-19 violations.

A vaccine pass for restaurants, bars and other businesses was announced for Oahu, but that program won't begin for several weeks, and gains from incentivizing vaccines could be months away.

The governor recently suggested that people stop traveling to Hawaii until the end of October, but he didn't change any official travel rules.

Despite calls from the state's top health officials for more restrictive measures, Gov. David Ige said Friday that a stay-at-home order and other mandates would hurt business.

"There is significant concern about the economic impact that a stay-at-home order would have," Ige said. "We are in the process of rehiring many in our community as business activity has increased. A stay-at-home order, shutting all non-essential businesses would be devastating."

But the governor is calling the surge a crisis.

"The state of Hawaii is struggling with an unprecedented and disastrous surge in COVID-19 cases," Ige said in an online plea to residents to be careful over the holiday weekend. "Our hospitals are being pushed to the limit."

Ige asked travelers to voluntarily test after arriving in the islands and for people to set their own nightly curfews.

The governor also quietly signed an order this week that releases health care workers and hospitals from liability during the surge.

Hospitals and health workers "shall be immune from civil liability for any death or injury ... alleged to have been caused by any act or omission by the health care facility" the order said, with legal caveats including misconduct and negligence.

Officials say only a small fraction of cases have been directly tied to tourists.

But hundreds of thousands of visitors and residents began traveling in July when travel rules eased. Hotels and beaches were full, local families got together for birthday parties and reunions, and tourists packed into luaus and restaurants.

"Travel started increasing and we started seeing our cases rising," said Dr. Kapono Chong-Hanssen, medical director of the Kauai Community Health Center. "And from there, you know, you've really just seen this skyrocketing surge in cases."

State Department of Health Director Dr. Libby Char said they are likely missing cases among visitors who may not get tested while on vacation.

"Are we undercounting travelers that are arriving or that subsequently become sick? Yeah, probably we are," Char said. "If they're not testing, then it makes it really difficult to identify those people."

And now the delta variant has been ripping through Hawaii's unvaccinated residents. Even though the state has among the highest vaccination rates in the nation, the surge has repeatedly set records for the highest case and death counts since the start of the pandemic. About 75% of Hawaii residents eligible for the vaccine are fully vaccinated, according to the state dashboard. Children 11 and younger can't sign up yet.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ NO.: RFQ21-DOF/OIT-162
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M
"PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CNMI GOVERNMENT REVENUE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ CAN BE MADE TO MR. JOSEPH O. TORRES, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, ACTING CHIEF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, AT 670-322-1418 OR VIA E-MAIL AT j.torres@dof.gov.mp by 4:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER 03, 2021.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP21-DOF/OIT-163
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M
"REVENUE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (RMIS) FOR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ONE Chief Accountant/Accounting Manager
(1) ONE ACCOUNTANT

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

HR Office
Herman's Modern Bakery Inc.
P.O. Box 500002 Saipan, MP 96950
By Facsimile: (670) 288-1726; or by e-mail: hr@hermansbakery.com
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-032
SUBMISSION DATE: October 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Department of Public Works Planning Road Condition and Flood Hazard Mapping Project, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **September 08, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **September 24, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 30, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-ITB-037
SUBMISSION DATE: October 07, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply, and Delivery of Roll-Off Trash Bins for the Division of Solid Waste Management, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **September 08, 2021** at the Department of Public Works, 2nd floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214 Saipan.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 24, 2021,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division, 2nd Floor, Transfer Station Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 30, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Administrative Bookkeeper

Position Summary:
Maintaining accurate records of accounts payable and receivable, payroll, and daily financial entries and reconciliations. Perform other daily accounting tasks. May also assist with basic HR duties like new hire documents, compliance, and other duties as assigned.

Job Responsibilities:
- Maintains historical records by filing documents.
- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying requirements; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing reports; advising management on needed actions.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Work Hours:
- Monday – Friday : 8:00am – 5:00pm

Bookkeeper Qualifications / Skills:
- Developing Standards
- Analyzing Information
- Dealing with Complexity
- Reporting Research Results
- Data Entry Skills
- Accounting
- Attention to Detail
- Confidentiality
- Thoroughness

Education, Experience:
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, finance or related field
- Previous bookkeeping experience preferred minimum 2 yrs experience
- Experience with Quickbooks Accounting Software

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Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc.
Call (670) 288-0566 for direction

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

Addendum 1
September 2, 2021

Extension of Bid Submission for ITB21-GOV-132 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters and Doors at the Tinian Youth Center and Tinian Aging Center

1. The August 27, 2021 submission date has been extended to September 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
2. There will be a virtual pre-bid meeting for this project on September 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
3. Questions are due on or before September 13, 2021 (Leona Deleon Guerrero at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp).
4. All other requirements of the Invitation for Bid and the project package shall remain as stated.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

ARC's F&B back to daily operation

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Food & Beverage department of Aqua Resort Club in San Roque is back to daily operations and, while there may be some changes due to the health protocols required while the world is still in a pandemic, that has not changed the overall goal of meeting and exceeding the expectations and needs of every guest, according to F&B manager Arnel "Neil" Metran.

While adapting to the circumstances brought by the pandemic, guests can still rely on Aqua Resort Club to have something different everyday that is a mixture of good food and drinks, great service, great sights, and even fitness!

Metran said they are focused on the overall value that they provide each guest. "We are here to create awareness that services that you do not often see and experience these days from other establishments are available here at ARC. Taking good care of our loyal customers are always on the top of our list as well as tapping new customers or market," he said. "We do this by maintaining our good relationship with them, we treat guests like family and we know many of them by name. That is why they feel welcome every time and this is the signature touch that we want to maintain at ARC, combined with the goal of customer satisfaction from the moment they walk into the hotel and until they board their cars to leave."

Themed lunch buffet

ARC is at the beck and call of lunch people who do not only go out to eat but wants delicious and tasty dishes. For only $19 per person, enjoy the daily themed lunch buffet at ARC's Costa Restaurant and let the dishes transport you to a different place without leaving your seat.

They serve lunch from 11am to 2pm and the themes are Mongolian on Mondays, Italian on Tuesdays, Shawarma on Wednesdays, Vietnamese on Thursdays, Mongolian on Fridays and Shawarma on Saturdays.

"If six guests come in, one guest will be free of charge and this goes on if you have a party that is divisible by six. So if your group has 12 people, then two will be free of charge and so on," Metran said. For more information, call at ARC (670) 322-1234.

Sunday Brunch at ARC is always a delight with several dishes and unlimited drinks and champagne.

Watch the sun go down at Michelle's Bar

Michelle's Bar, which is located poolside, caters to pool or beach goers, people who wants to relax and enjoy the sunset after a long day at school or work, and guests who want to go for a night cap after having dinner at Costa Restaurant. It is open on Monday from 11am to 5pm, Friday from 11am to 9pm, Saturday from 11am to 9pm, and Sunday from 11am to 7pm.

What is unique about Michelle's Bar is guests can avail of its "Happy Hour All Day" promo or 50% off on all drinks.

A new cocktail menu that includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic items starts this weekend.

For more information, call at ARC (670) 322-1234.

The Food & Beverage team of Aqua Resort Club is led by F&B manager Arnel "Neil" Metran and assistant F&B manager Amapola Castro. BEA CABRERA

Wine promo at ARC Gift Shop

The ARC Gift Shop offers the award-winning Robert Mondave wine at prices that are hard to resist. Get a Robert Mondave private selection bottle for only $35, Robert Mondave Chardonnay Woodbridge for only $25 per bottle and other selected Robert Mondave wine at 50% off. Now, you can enjoy a Robert Mondave bottle anywhere that won't hurt your wallet. For more information, call ARC at (670) 322-1234.

Yoga and wine

ARC combines health and pleasure with its "Yoga Class and a Glass" with Yoga instructor Kerri Bauer on Sept. 17 starting at 5:30pm at the ARC poolside for only $15. That includes a yoga class and a glass of wine. The session guarantees strength building and a good stretch. After class, participants can continue relaxing at Michelle's Bar, which offers 50% off on drinks and menu specials. For more information, call Bauer at (670) 484-3848 or ARC at (670) 322-1234.

ARC is also accommodating banquet and events for any occasion.

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this September. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

- **Sept. 9: Teaming and Joint Ventures**-What are they and which is right for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.
- **Sept. 16: Procurement Integrated Enterprises Environment-Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment**-Department of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. We will show you how to setup an account and submit an invoice.
- **Sept. 23: FAR Clauses Explained**-Confused by all the FAR clauses referenced in government solicitations? The Guam PTAC will demystify these Federal Acquisition Regulations. Join us as we explain many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.
- **Sept. 30: Government of Guam Procurement**-The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

To register visit http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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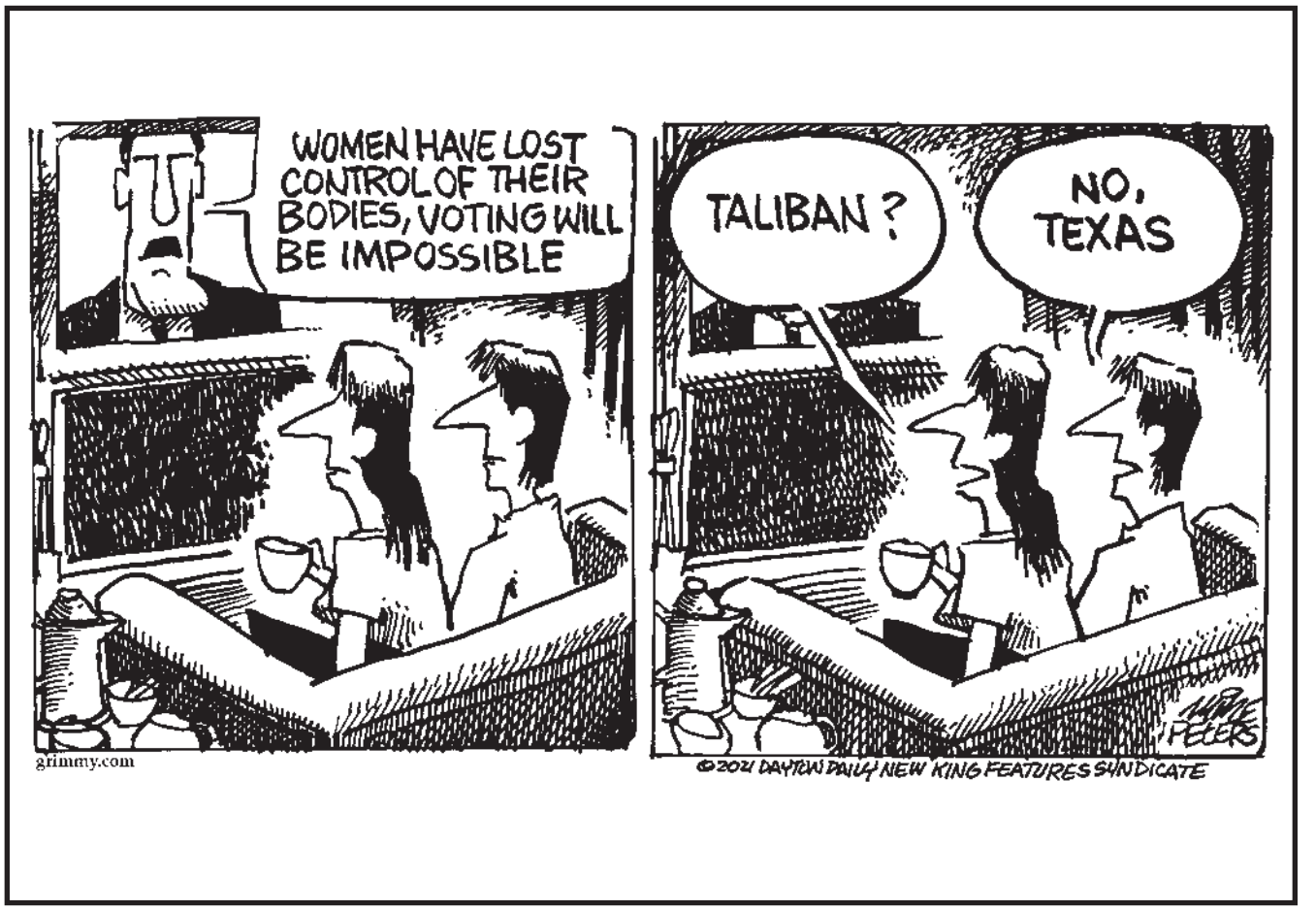
WOMEN HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THEIR BODIES, VOTING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE
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EDITORIAL

Passing up approved coronavirus vaccine for horse dewormer is nuts

For months after the coronavirus vaccines were released, many Americans who refused to take them cited the fact that they were initially approved by federal regulators on an emergency fast-track basis rather than under the normal drug-approval process. That fear, never fully valid to begin with, should have finally been laid to rest by the recent full, formal approval of the first of the vaccines.

Yet even now, significant numbers of vaccine-skeptical people are instead turning to a drug meant to deworm horses, which has repeatedly failed to protect against the coronavirus in clinical trials and in some cases has proven dangerous. This should stand as further evidence (if any was still needed) that the anti-vaccination movement lacks any credibility whatsoever and should have no sway over public policy.

Ivermectin has been effectively used in small doses in humans to treat parasites, but human trials haven't produced evidence it's effective on the coronavirus. That hasn't stopped people from buying up the human version to the point that pharmacies are running out. Worse, some are turning to veterinary supply sources for the livestock version—which is not merely ineffective against the coronavirus but dangerous. Ivermectin-related calls to poison control centers have risen fivefold in recent months.

It's reminiscent of the controversy over hydroxychloroquine, a malaria medication that, like ivermectin, has shown scant actual evidence of effectiveness against the coronavirus and has potentially dangerous side effects. But with backing and misinformation from right-wing media and some Republican politicians (including, in the case of hydroxychloroquine, former President Donald Trump), too many Americans are viewing these unproven, unlikely remedies as silver bullets, while continuing to reject vaccines that have been proven for months to be both highly effective and safe.

It's not putting it too strongly to suggest that this is madness. What social, political or psychological factors would cause large numbers of otherwise rational Americans to reject vaccines that have earned provisional and now formal approval by the Food and Drug Administration, while embracing drugs that the FDA and other experts warn are ineffective and dangerous? It's almost as if, having staked out the bizarre position that vaccine acceptance is a violation of conservatism, those adherents are suddenly recognizing that the crisis is real and lunging for whatever vaccine alternative they can find.

Declaring an entire segment of society to be so outside the pale that their voices should be deliberately ignored isn't something that should be done lightly—but on the issue of these snake-oil alternatives, the time has come. Vaccine mandates, vaccine passports and other proposed policies are centered on the simple scientific fact that vaccines work. Like all public policies, these ideas must be open to debate. But there should be no seat at that table for those who pass up medically approved vaccines in favor of a horse dewormer.

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Generally speaking, here's how the war went wrong

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

The 20-year Vietnamization of Afghanistan, a slo-mo epic, ended in a calamitous rush of mistakes that made America look to all the world like a stumble-bumbling superpower that just can't—or won't—learn from its mistakes.

There is just one way to fix that. Washington's elites must do what they do best—start talking about themselves. But they must do it—for once!—when they are asked what went so horribly wrong.

And that's the story this investigative reporter had started pursuing when I stumbled across a small jackpot overflowing with just that, in a most unlikely place. It was spilling out of my news screen on an officially godawful Wednesday. The secretary of defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had just marked the horrific end of yet another un-won U.S. war with two poignant speeches and a briefest Q&A before a sadly imprecise, seemingly question-lite Pentagon press corps.

The all-news cable shows had assembled their pundit ponds (and I was wondering why I was wasting my time) when suddenly something most unusual started spilling out of my news screen. It was news. MSNBC's Chuck Todd, whose background was famously the hotline mumble of campaign politics, had tapped into a vein of war-and-peace lessons—just by asking the simplest question of a retired general who had helped run the Afghanistan War.

"What did you get wrong?" Todd asked retired Army Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, who was a former commander in Afghanistan in 2009-10 and then moved to the Pentagon to advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "What did you miscalculate?"

Shockingly, this retired general didn't recycle the usual they-a-culpa. Hodges answered truthfully. Truth told fully. In-depth.

"I completely bought into the idea that Afghan security forces could be effective … and that eventually Afghanistan could stand on its own," Hodges replied. "The problem was the model was built on a Western model—the idea that we could make an army that would look like us, or the Brits or the Germans. …The Western model is based on having overwhelming firepower, endless logistics and exquisite intelligence. When that's removed, then they're not going to be effective."

Hodges admitted he should have known better: "The best Afghan unit I saw actually looked a whole lot like the Taliban. And they had a U.S. Army green beret … who was guiding them. … I didn't believe what I was seeing with my own eyes—that that was the way to go.

"I was very optimistic when I left Afghanistan at the end of 2010. I had seen such quality performance by Afghan units—but that was when they were always with us. So I was part of the problem there."

When Hodges moved on to the Pentagon, as the Joint Chiefs of Staff's expert on Afghanistan and next-door Pakistan, he made more assumptions he also regrets today.

"I believed Pakistan was an ally. I deluded myself. … I should have been much more forceful at shining the light on the fact that Pakistan was not an ally. They were giving safe haven to the Taliban despite the billions of dollars we were spending. And of course Osama bin Laden was killed (by a stealthy U.S. military operation) living in a big house down the street from the military academy in Pakistan. Those were two areas where I misread it."

Unfortunately, no one in the Pentagon's mini-press Q&A asked Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin (a former general in Afghanistan) or Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley why they failed to have a worst-case scenario plan when Afghanistan's military and government suddenly collapsed. What were they thinking when we all saw reports of massive Afghan corruption that made Uncle Sam Afghanistan's Uncle Pockets? And reports of Taliban paying masses of Afghan troops to desert but leave their weapons behind?

"I do think that in the military there is a culture … that is: 'I don't care how bad it is, I've been given a mission and we're going to be successful.' … But as I look at all of our government … there is a tendency to suppress, bury, kill assessments that are contrary to the prevailing narrative of any administration. The narrative was always going to be: Our way to get out of Afghanistan was to create security forces and governments so they can do it themselves."

And so a general lesson emerged:

"Dissenting opinions" must get "sunlight and oxygen." They need to survive and even thrive. Powerful dissent must reach the Influencers and the Deciders in the Pentagon's E-Ring and the White House's West Wing—before they blunder into a delusional Afghanistanization of the next place.

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Vaccine diplomacy isn't working. It's time for a new approach

By CLARA FERREIRA MARQUES
Bloomberg Opinion

Clara Ferreira Marques is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering commodities and environmental, social and governance issues. Previously, she was an associate editor for Reuters Breakingviews, and editor and correspondent for Reuters in Singapore, India, the U.K., Italy and Russia.*

COVID-19 vaccines were supposed to be a golden diplomatic opportunity for great powers and aspiring rivals to woo friends—and even enemies—in need. It isn't going to plan.

Russia was the first to approve a vaccine and the most enthusiastic marketer, but has fallen far short of its hyperbolic delivery promises. China has done a better job of stepping up, but is plagued by questions over the relatively lower efficacy of its shots—even if they appear to hold up against more troublesome variants. Western countries, meanwhile, were providing far too little even before the current scramble to secure booster doses began. And neither scattered bilateral efforts nor unimpressive global ones are translating into real geopolitical influence.

Take Southeast Asia, perhaps one of the most stark examples. A strategically vital region of 670 million on China's doorstep, it has from the beginning been a crucial vaccine battleground, with all sides jostling for influence. But it's also now in desperate need. After a promising start last year, a variant-fueled surge has battered the region over the past few months. Vietnam, which had no deaths for the first months of the pandemic and contained infections for much of 2020 despite bordering China, has now gone from fewer than 1,000 daily cases in early July to more than 12 times that, forcing a draconian lockdown of Ho Chi Minh City. Less than 3% of the population is fully vaccinated. Indonesia is now coming out of its latest devastating wave but has completely immunized just over 13%.

It's not that the region was ignored. China, in fact, made it a priority from the start. Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a point of traveling out in January—not coincidentally, just before U.S. President Joe Biden's inauguration—with generous inoculation promises alongside wider infrastructure and investment pledges, including support for key partner Indonesia to become a vaccine production hub. It was during his Jakarta stop that President Joko Widodo launched the country's vaccination drive—with a Chinese-made Sinovac shot. Southeast Asia accounts for roughly a quarter of China's global sales and virtually all countries in the region have either bought doses or received donations from China.

As Cambodian leader Hun Sen, initially wary, put it in a speech in May: "If I don't rely on China, who will I rely on?"

And yet, the payback is not obvious. There's been no dramatic change in position on issues that really matter to Beijing, say, such as its claims to disputed waters in the South China Sea. Support for the Philippines wasn't enough to stop President Rodrigo Duterte from renewing, at the end of July, a strategically significant military pact governing the presence of U.S. troops in the country.

That's because vaccine diplomacy doesn't happen in a vacuum. Beijing's soft power approach hasn't replaced the old-fashioned kind, as when China flew military craft over waters off the Malaysian coast, a display of strength that forced the country to scramble jets. And there's the simpler fact that the vaccines are not seen as equally effective. While citizens and governments understand they are not in a position to be picky, it's hard not to notice that even grateful Hun Sen took the AstraZeneca Plc shot when the time came, or that hundreds of Indonesia's healthcare workers, vaccinated with Sinovac, fell sick. Breakthrough infections happen, but it hardly helped Beijing's cause. Thailand last month gave tens of thousands of Sinovac-vaccinated doctors a follow-up dose of Pfizer-BioNTech.

But where China faltered, have others done better? The answer, without question, is no.

Japan, a major donor and investor in the region, has punched below its weight, perhaps because it is not a significant vaccine producer and has been struggling with its own inoculation drive. Russia certainly saw the opportunity and has made big promises, but followed with few deliveries as it grapples with production hiccups. Vietnam, arguably its most significant partner in the region and a major recipient of arms exports, said in early June it would receive 20 million doses of Sputnik V this year. A note on the Ministry of Health website in early August said it had received 12,000—barely a dent for a country of nearly 100 million.

The U.S., scrambling to catch up in the region after years of neglect under the previous administration, has done better, pointedly offering contributions it says have "no strings attached." But even apparently generous gestures—what now adds up to 6 million donated doses for Vietnam, say—are a drop in the ocean in a dramatically under-vaccinated region that needs supply, not simply charity.

That sort of amount is, as Ben Bland of the Lowy Institute in Sydney put it to me, the price of a seat at the vaccine diplomacy table—not the ticket to victory.

It's too soon to call the winners or losers when it comes to vaccine diplomacy. The tail of the pandemic will be long, especially in emerging economies. Chong Ja Ian, associate professor of political science at the National University of Singapore, separates the short-term and the long-term—the immediate deliveries of donated or sold doses on one side, and, on the other, the impact of years of booster supplies, support for production capacity and public health surveillance assistance. Infrastructure will bring longer-lasting diplomatic rewards—and is best built as a collaborative effort, not a smattering of bilateral gestures.

Geopolitical influence, after all, requires success.

Ethiopia's civil war is a disaster that's only getting worse

By BOBBY GHOSH
Bloomberg Opinion

Bobby Ghosh is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He writes on foreign affairs, with a special focus on the Middle East and Africa.*

As the world is transfixed by the tragedy playing out in Afghanistan, another humanitarian catastrophe is getting little scrutiny.

In Ethiopia, a conflict with roots in a dispute between the central government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and authorities of the northern Tigray region has spilled into neighboring provinces and metastasized into a full-blown civil war—one fueled as much by ethnic enmities as by political grievances. It's time for the West to pay attention and get tougher on the government in Addis Ababa.

International rights groups are seeing an all-too-familiar pattern repeat itself in Ethiopia: There's the weaponization of rape and hunger, the use of child soldiers, reports of ethnic cleansing and warnings of genocide. The death toll from the fighting is thought to be in the tens of thousands, and millions have been displaced.

Worse is to come: Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians face famine, according to United Nations agencies. The fighting is preventing food aid from reaching people in the greatest need. Abiy, a Nobel Peace laureate, has ignored appeals from the international community to halt the fighting. With the Tigray People's Liberation Front having inflicted a series of defeats on government forces, the prime minister has called on civilians to join the army and militias, stoking fears of a wider conflagration.

Inevitably, the crisis has resurrected memories of Ethiopia's previous experience with famine. In the 1980s, an estimated 1 million people died from starvation and malnutrition. Comparisons are also being drawn to Africa's other cataclysmic ethnic conflicts, including the Rwandan genocide.

Ethiopia is Africa's second-most populous nation and was, until the civil war broke out last fall, held up as a beacon for the rest of the continent: Its recent economic success was cited by investors and aid donors alike as an example for other developing countries.

That success is now imperiled as the conflict exacts a heavy toll on the economy. The risk premium on Ethiopia's dollar debt has almost doubled this year. The ardor of investors has cooled with the government's pleas for a debt restructuring. As Bloomberg News has pointed out, the premium demanded to hold Ethiopia's 2024 Eurobonds instead of U.S. Treasuries has climbed to 987 basis points, the highest in Africa after Zambia, which is in default. The average spread for African dollar bonds is 541 basis points.

And yet neither economic nor humanitarian considerations carry much weight with Abiy. The prime minister seems to have taken an election triumph in June—his party won a large majority in parliament—as an endorsement of his no-compromise posture in the war against the Tigrayans.

But the conflict has grown more complicated since then. Insurgents from the Oromo, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, have formed an alliance with the Tigrayans against the government.

Who can stop Ethiopia from the coming catastrophe? The African Union is too beholden to the government, which provides its headquarters in Addis Ababa, to have much sway over Abiy, and it doesn't inspire trust among the rebels. The UN's pleas for a ceasefire have gone unheeded by both sides.

The Biden administration, on the other hand, has some leverage. Ethiopia is sub-Saharan Africa's largest recipient of American foreign aid, amounting to about $1 billion last year. The European Union is another significant donor and trading partner. Some U.S. and EU assistance has been suspended or postponed, but this has not had any restraining effect on Abiy, who refused even to meet with USAID chief Samantha Power when she visited Addis Ababa last month.

Just in case Joe Biden missed this demonstration of defiance, Abiy also snubbed the U.S. special envoy to the Horn of Africa, Jeffrey Feltman, who flew to the Ethiopian capital the following week.

With shuttle-diplomacy and mild financial restrictions having failed, Western governments will need to lean more heavily on the prime minister to pause the fighting and allow humanitarian supplies into the war zone. The Biden administration can lead the way by suspending all nonessential aid to Addis Ababa, as well as blocking assistance from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Washington should also follow through on its threat to cancel duty-free access for Ethiopian exports to the U.S. market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Having already announced some restrictions on visas for Ethiopian government and military officials involved in "perpetrating the conflict," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken should now impose harsher sanctions, including freezing any assets these officials hold in the U.S., and pressing the Europeans to do likewise.

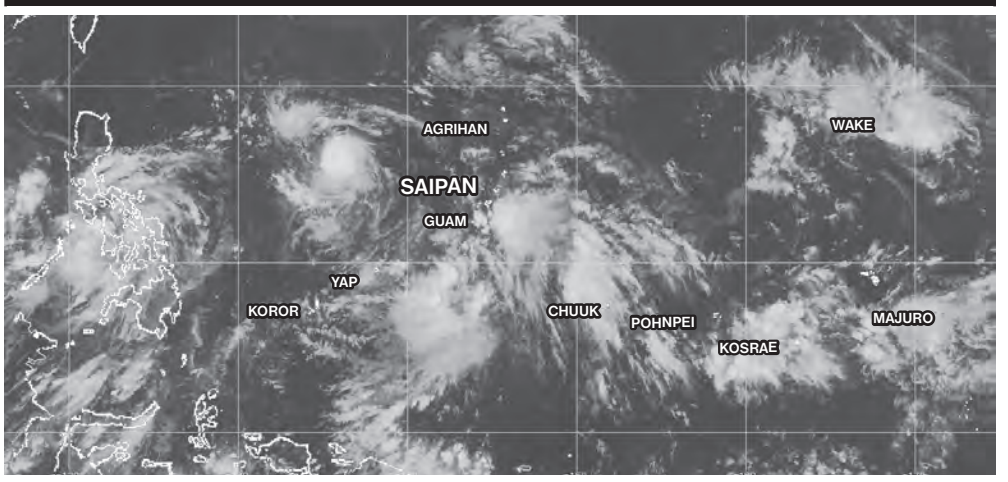
Anticipating a ratcheting up of Western pressure, Abiy is seeking support elsewhere: He got some from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on a visit to Ankara earlier this month. But the combined clout of the U.S. and Europe remains substantial, and it should now be deployed to save millions of Ethiopians from calamity.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86° 76°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:54 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shortwave trough is currently positioned near the border of our eastern coastal waters. Convection has been rapidly expanding to our east, with significant cloud top cooling and increased lightning activity noted. The overall signature is essentially a tropical version of an MCS (Mesoscale Convective System), aided by positive vorticity advection with the incoming trough. Used observational trends to time the convection, which looks to arrive at Guam near noontime, at Rota perhaps an hour or so later, and by mid afternoon possibly at Tinian and Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	74 / 89 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	76 / 86 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:56 AM	7:28 PM	-
Thursday	7:51 AM	8:10 PM	-
Friday	8:48 AM	8:52 PM	-
Saturday	9:46 AM	9:38 PM	-
Sunday	10:46 AM	10:27 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Sunny	49 / 62 °F
Beijing	Mostly sunny	63 / 90 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	79 / 89 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 83 °F
London	Sunny	56 / 78 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	66 / 86 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	81 / 88 °F
Melbourne	Showers	54 / 62 °F
Miami	High level clouds	78 / 86 °F
New York	Partly sunny	71 / 87 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	73 / 86 °F
Paris	Mostly sunny	57 / 82 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	74 / 85 °F
Rome	Decreasing cloudiness	69 / 83 °F
Salem	Light showers	57 / 75 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	59 / 70 °F
Seoul	Heavy rain	64 / 68 °F
Tokyo	High level clouds	70 / 86 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	69 / 89 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:25 AM	Low Tide	0.85
7:54 AM	High Tide	2.05
2:39 PM	Low Tide	0.14
8:57 PM	High Tide	2.02

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

'Ida damage shows need for infrastructure upgrades'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Shaken by haunting images of surging rivers, flooded roads and subways and other damage caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida, lawmakers from both parties are vowing to upgrade the nation's aging infrastructure network.

As the deadly storm moved from the Gulf Coast through the Northeast, members of Congress said the deluge offered irrefutable evidence that power lines, roads, bridges and other infrastructure are deteriorating even as storms and other extreme weather are strengthening. At least 50 people from Virginia to Connecticut died as storm water from Ida's remnants cascaded into people's homes and engulfed automobiles, overwhelming urban drainage systems unable to handle so much rain in such a short time.

At least 16 deaths deaths were blamed on the storm in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Homes damaged from the remnants of Hurricane Ida on Josephine Lane in Mullica Hill, N.J. on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021. AP

"Global warming is upon us," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "When you get two record rainfalls in a week (in New York City), it's not just coincidence. When you get all the changes that we have seen in weather, that's not a coincidence. ... It's going to get worse and worse and worse, unless we do something about it."

Schumer and other lawmakers said the catastrophe is the latest example of why the nation needs the nearly trillion-dollar infrastructure bill passed by the Senate last month. He and other Democrats also are calling for passage of President Joe Biden's $3.5 trillion, partisan rebuilding plan aimed at helping families and combating climate change.

"It's so imperative to pass the two bills," Schumer said.

Democrats hope to pass both bills by the end of this month, but action on the bipartisan bill may be difficult until the larger package is ready. Progressives have said they won't support a bipartisan bill without strong companion legislation to advance their priorities.

Biden made a pitch Friday for the bipartisan bill, saying it "is going to change things on our streets across the country." He cited the bill's "historic investment" in roads, rail and bridges, as well as clean energy, clean water and universal broadband.

"It's about resilience," Biden said. "Make our roads and highways safer. Make us more resilient to the kinds of devastating impacts from extreme weather we're seeing in so many parts of the country."

The plan includes $110 billion to build and repair roads and bridges and $66 billion to upgrade railroads. It also includes about $60 billion to upgrade the electric grid and build thousands of miles of transmission lines to expand use of renewable energy and nearly $47 billion to adapt and rebuild roads, ports and bridges to help withstand damage from stronger storms as well as wildfires and drought.

"If we're going to make our country more resilient to natural disasters, whatever they are, we have to start preparing now," said Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La.

Cassidy, a lead negotiator on the bipartisan bill, has touted the infrastructure legislation as a boon to hurricane-prone states such as his. "I'm sure hoping that Republicans look around my state, see this damage and say, 'If there's money for resiliency, money to harden the grid, money to help sewer and water, then maybe this is something we should be for,'" he told CNN.

Ultimately, repair and replacement of roads, bridges and other infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Ida and other natural disasters are likely to be funded by Congress as emergency relief money. But the bipartisan bill will be valuable in providing major investments in "future-proofing" infrastructure against climate change and extreme weather such as Ida, according to Jeff Davis, a senior fellow at the Eno Center for Transportation, a Washington think tank.

The bill would be the first to devote money for "climate resilience," including $17 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to address backlogs in federal flood control projects.

UN climate chief: No country is safe from global warming

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—The U.N.'s top climate official urged governments Monday to stop their "deferral and delay" tactics and instead embrace rapid, widespread measures to curb and adapt to global warming.

Amid a season of extreme weather and new temperature records, Patricia Espinosa warned that no nation is safe from the impacts of climate change. Greece on Monday created a new ministry to address the impact of climate change following the country's worst heat wave in decades.

"There is not anymore a situation where we can say these are the vulnerable countries and these are the not vulnerable countries," she said.

With less than three months to go before this year's U.N. climate summit, Espinosa appealed for governments that have signed up to the 2015 Paris accord to back what she called "ambitious, rapid, widespread, transformative efforts" to limit global temperature rise and prepare for the inevitable impacts of a warming world.

"We need to see that parties move beyond politics of deferral and delay and widen the narrow scope of self-interest," she said.

Espinosa's comments came at the opening of a new floating office for the Global Center on Adaption in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte called the office "a perfect example of how we can adapt to the changing climate," noting that the building is off-grid, carbon neutral, self-sufficient and ready to adapt to future rising sea levels.

Such high-tech facilities are beyond the reach of millions in poorer nations, whose leaders have demanded that developed countries pay some of the costs they face in adjusting to climate change.

New Jersey's largest dairy farm nearly destroyed in tornado

By CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The morning after one of the most intense tornadoes recorded in New Jersey history all but demolished the largest dairy farm in the state, owners Marianne and Wally Eachus looked at each other and just cried.

"What are we going to do?" they asked one another.

Just 12 hours earlier, the couple was eating dinner when cellphone weather alerts warned that a tornado was imminent. The clouds were intense and swift, then there was a sound like a freight train, Marianne recalled.

They ran to the basement just in time for the EF3 tornado, one of at least eight that ripped through parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania during last week's storm, to pass over. Barely three minutes went by, and it was gone.

When the owners of Wellacrest Farms in Mullica Hill, a suburb of Philadelphia, came out of their basement along with other family on their homestead, they saw that two of their massive grain silos had toppled over. Some barns were completely reduced to concrete, roofs ripped off others, equipment was demolished, uprooted trees crashed into the old farmhouse.

The contorted skeleton of a barn at Wellacrest Farms in Mullica Hill, N.J. A tornado passes passed through the area on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021. AP

"There was just metal, wood, debris, everywhere," Eachus said.

And hundreds of cows were trapped under collapsed barns. Thirteen have died, a couple dozen more suffered injuries. A crew was milking when the twister ripped through and had only seconds to hide and hold on. They saw several cows swallowed by the funnel. Up to 100 cows were still missing Monday morning.

Somehow, there were no additional deaths on the dairy farm from the tornado. But the storm also produced historic rain and massive flooding from the remnants of Hurricane Ida that killed at least 50 people in six Eastern states, more than half in New Jersey alone.

Those drenching rains came at the farm and for hours, Eachus and her family, joined by neighbors and friends, worked to corral the cows back into pens.

Wellacrest Farms was established in 1943 by the parents of Marianne's husband, Wally Eachus. Just over 20 years ago, Marianne and Wally took it over and still run it with the help of their kids. Wellacrest produces more than 17 million pounds of milk annually and works with other farmers to share and sell crops. There are 1,400 cows on the property—about half of them are milking cows.

In the days after the destruction, the Eachus family has seen an outpouring of support and help. Local businesses brought in excavators to help free cows, others helped with electricity, plumbing, even more helped haul away debris. The cows have food, water and somehow, the entire milking operation has returned.

Nation

In this aerial photo, the remains of destroyed homes are seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, in Lafitte, La. AP

New Orleans: Seniors left in dark, hot facilities after Ida

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Officials in New Orleans will thoroughly inspect senior living apartments in the city in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida after finding people living in buildings without working generators, which left residents trapped in wheelchairs on dark, sweltering upper floors, Mayor LaToya Cantrell said Monday.

Hundreds were evacuated Saturday and the city later said five people had died in the privately run buildings in the days after the storm. The coroner's office is investigating whether the deaths will be attributed to the hurricane, which struck land nine days before.

The managers of some of the homes for seniors evacuated out of state without making sure the residents would be safe after the storm, New Orleans City Council member Kristin Palmer said at a news conference.

"They're hiding under the loophole of 'independent living,'" Palmer said. "It's not independent living if there's no power and you're in a wheelchair on the fourth floor."

The city is creating teams of workers from the health, safety and permits, code enforcement and other departments. Their first focus is to make sure the senior homes are safe and evacuate people if necessary, Cantrell said.

But after that, management will be held accountable, and the city will likely add requirements that include facilities having emergency agreements in place with contractors who will make sure generator power is available at the sites, the mayor said.

Crews in Louisiana have restored power to nearly 70% of greater New Orleans and nearly all of Baton Rouge after Hurricane Ida, but outside those large cities, getting lights back on is a complex challenge that will last almost all of September, utility executives said Monday.

It's going to involve air boats to get into the swamps and marshes to string lines and repair the most remote of about 22,000 power poles that Ida blew down when it came ashore on Aug. 29 as one of the most powerful hurricanes to hit the U.S. mainland, Entergy Louisiana President and CEO Phillip May said.

More than 530,000 customers still don't have power in Louisiana, just under half of the peak when Ida struck eight days ago. In five parishes west and south of New Orleans, at least 98% of homes and businesses don't have power, according to the state Public Service Commission.

Ex-Marine held without bond in shooting of Florida family

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A former Marine sharpshooter accused of invading the home of apparent strangers in Florida and fatally shooting a woman, her 3-month-old baby and two others was ordered held without bail during his first court appearance Monday.

Authorities did not give a motive for the grisly attack, but they said Bryan Riley may have a mental illness and that he told investigators said he was high on methamphetamines at the time. His girlfriend said had been saying for weeks that he could communicate directly with God.

At this court appearance Monday, Riley, 33, said that he intended to hire a lawyer, but one will be appointed for him in the meantime.

Riley surrendered on Sunday morning after a furious gunbattle with authorities who brought in at least one armored vehicle during their standoff. After it was over, an officer rushed into the home and rescued an 11-year-old girl, who was still conscious despite being shot seven times. She was in critical condition on Monday, the sheriff's office said.

According to Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd, Riley told interrogators that the victims "begged for their lives, and I killed them anyway."

Judd said Riley told detectives, "You know why I did this." But Brian Haas, the local prosecutor, said investigators don't.

Law firm: Attorney whose wife, son were killed took money

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A lawyer from a prominent South Carolina legal family who found his wife and son shot to death at their home three months ago and was injured days ago when a bullet grazed his head as he changed a tire was taking money from his law firm, the business said late Monday.

The statement from PMPED law firm came hours after Alex Murdaugh said he was resigning and entering rehab.

The PMPED law firm said it will hire an accounting firm to fully review its books. It didn't say how much money might be missing, but said Murdaugh was no longer associated with them in any way.

"This is disappointing news for all of us. Rest assured that our firm will deal with this in a straightforward manner. There's no place in our firm for such behavior," the law firm said in a statement.

Hours before Murdaugh sent out his own statement, saying he regretted decisions he made, but didn't give any details just two days after reporting someone shot at him after his car had a flat tire along a rural road in Hampton County.

"The murders of my wife and son have caused an incredibly difficult time in my life. I have made a lot of decisions that I truly regret. I'm resigning from my law firm and entering rehab after a long battle that has been exacerbated by these murders. I am immensely sorry to everyone I've hurt including my family, friends and colleagues. I ask for prayers as I rehabilitate myself and my relationships," read Murdaugh's entire statement.

The statement came two days after investigators said Murdaugh was able to call 911 after he was hurt Saturday afternoon on Salkehatchie Road in Hampton County.

More US first responders are dying of COVID-19

The resurgence of COVID-19 this summer and the national debate over vaccine requirements have created a fraught situation for the United States' first responders, who are dying in larger numbers but pushing back against mandates.

It's a stark contrast from the beginning of the vaccine rollout when first responders were prioritized for shots.

The mandates affect tens of thousands of police officers, firefighters and others on the front lines across the country, many of whom are spurning the vaccine. That is happening despite mandates' consequences that range from weekly testing to suspension to termination—even though the virus is now the leading cause of U.S. law enforcement line-of-duty deaths.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, 132 members of law enforcement agencies are known to have died of COVID-19 in 2021. In Florida alone last month, six people affiliated with law enforcement died over a 10-day period.

Despite the deaths, police officers and other first responders are among those most hesitant to get the vaccine and their cases continue to grow. No national statistics show the vaccination rate for America's entire population of first responders but individual police and fire departments across the country report figures far below the national rate of 74% of adults who have had at least one dose. ***(AP)***

Asia

Vaccine chief Kono is popular favorite to become Japan PM

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's outspoken Cabinet minister in charge of vaccinations, Taro Kono, has the most popular support to become the country's next leader, according to opinion polls released Monday, as potential candidates jockey to replace outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

Kono, 58, a graduate of Georgetown University and fluent in English, is a rarity in Japanese politics, which are dominated by elderly men. He has many fans among younger people, with whom he communicates via social media. He has also served as foreign and defense ministers.

Suga's sudden announcement on Friday that he will not seek another term as head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party in a Sept. 29 vote opened the way for an array of candidates.

The head of the governing party is normally elected prime minister by parliament because the party and its coalition partner hold a majority of seats.

Kono

Suga, who took office a year ago, has faced nosediving popularity over his government's coronavirus response, which many saw as slow and limited, and for insisting on hosting the Olympics despite widespread opposition over health concerns.

Having a fresh leader is important for the Liberal Democrats ahead of an upcoming general election that must be held by late November.

A telephone survey conducted on Sept. 4-5 and released Monday by Japan's Kyodo News agency showed nearly 32% of the 1,071 respondents said they preferred Kono as the next prime minister, with former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba trailing with 27%. Former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, the only person who has announced their candidacy, was third with 19%.

Both Kono and Ishiba have expressed interest in running but have not announced their candidacies as they continue to seek support from party lawmakers.

As is customary in Japan, the survey did not provide a margin of error. Polls of that size normally have a margin of error of about 3 percentage points.

Two other weekend surveys, by the Yomiuri newspaper and TBS television, also ranked the top three potential contenders in the same order.

ASIA BRIEFS

Firebrand Myanmar monk Wirathu released from prison

BANGKOK (AP)—A nationalist Buddhist monk in Myanmar notorious for anti-Muslim remarks was freed from prison on Monday after charges that he tried to stir up disaffection against the country's previous civilian government were dropped. The monk, Wirathu, became prominent in 2012 after deadly riots broke out between Buddhists and ethnic minority Rohingya Muslims in the western state of Rakhine. He founded a nationalist organization that was accused of inciting violence against Muslims. Muslims from other ethnic groups and in other areas also faced disrespect and occasional violence after Wirathu and his supporters launched their nationalist campaign. Time Magazine called Wirathu "The Face of Buddhist Terror" in a cover story in 2013. Wirathu and his supporters were also successful in lobbying for laws making interfaith marriages difficult.

Sri Lankan Parliament approves state of emergency

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's Parliament on Monday approved a state of emergency declared by the president, who said it is needed to control food prices and prevent hoarding amid shortages of some staples. Opposition lawmakers said the emergency declaration isn't needed because other laws can be used to maintain essential supplies, and the tough emergency rules can be misused to stifle critics. The emergency law enables authorities to detain people without warrants, seize property, enter and search any premises, suspend laws and issue orders that cannot be questioned in court. Officials who issue such orders are also immune from lawsuits. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared the emergency on Aug. 30. The constitution requires that it be approved within 14 days by the 225-member Parliament, where the governing party has more than 150 seats. The resolution received 132 votes in favor and 51 against. The government said it has made maximum efforts to use normal laws, but that court cases it filed have been delayed by the pandemic. Governing party lawmakers said the emergency was declared only because other options were not working, and that the government does not intend to use the emergency regulations against opponents.

Myanmar court extends pre-trial detention of US journalist

BANGKOK (AP)—A court in Myanmar on Monday extended the pre-trial detention of Danny Fenster, an American journalist in the military-led Southeast Asian nation who was arrested in May. Fenster was detained at Yangon International Airport on May 24, as he was about to board a flight to go to the Detroit area in the United States to see his family. He is the managing editor of Frontier Myanmar, an online magazine based in Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city. "Danny's next trial date is set for September 20," said his lawyer, Than Zaw Aung. "The court held a video conference with Danny Fenster this afternoon and he is healthy, according to the clerk from the court." Fenster has been charged with incitement for which he could be sentenced to up to three years' imprisonment. The charge against him does not make clear specifically what he is accused of doing.

UK aircraft carrier visits Japan for drill amid China worry

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's defense minister on Monday welcomed the British aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth as it made its first Japanese port call, saying the involvement of European nations in the Indo-Pacific region is key to peace and stability as China's military strength and influence grow. Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi met the strike group's commander, Commodore Steve Moorhouse, on board the carrier. The ship arrived at the U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka near Tokyo on Saturday. Japan is seeking to expand its military cooperation beyond its traditional alliance with the United States as China's navy expands and increasingly presses its territorial claims. The Queen Elizabeth participated in a joint exercise with warships from the United States, the Netherlands, Canada and Japan before arriving in Yokosuka. The exercise was part of efforts to achieve a "free and open Indo-Pacific" vision led by Washington and Tokyo.

World

In this image made from video, an unnamed military officer identifying himself as the spokesperson of the National Committee for Rally and Development, surrounded by others, makes an address to the nation from state television headquarters in the capital Conakry, Guinea Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021. AP

Guinea's new junta leaders seek to tighten grip on power

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Guinea's new military leaders sought to tighten their grip on power Monday after overthrowing President Alpha Conde, ordering the soldiers from his presidential guard to now join the junta forces and barring government officials from leaving the country.

After putting the West African nation back under military rule for the first time in over a decade, the junta already had dissolved the National Assembly and the country's constitution. On Monday, regional military commanders replaced Guinea's governors as the junta solidified its control.

Junta President Col. Mamady Doumbouya said the new military regime would not pursue vendettas against political enemies, but he also instructed the officials he'd summoned from Conde's deposed government to turn over their passports immediately.

"There will be no spirit of hatred or revenge. There will be no witch hunt," said Doumbouya, 41, addressing officials in a red beret and dark sunglasses beside a throng of armed soldiers. "But justice will be the compass that will guide every Guinean citizen."

"For former members of the government, travel outside our borders will not be allowed during the transition," said Doumbouya, who had led the Guinean army's special forces unit before seizing power Sunday. "All your travel documents and vehicles must be handed over to the general secretaries of your former departments."

The military junta has refused to issue a timeline for releasing Conde, saying the 83-year-old deposed leader still had access to medical care and his doctors. The West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS, though, called for his immediate release and threatened to impose sanctions if the demand was not met.

Conde's removal by force Sunday came after the president sought and won a controversial third term in office last year, saying the term limits did not apply to him. State television showed the junta being greeted by jubilant Guineans, some of whom chanted "Freedom!" at the passing military convoy in the streets.

WORLD BRIEFS

Goodbye Columbus: Mexico statue to be replaced by Indigenous

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Christopher Columbus is getting kicked off Mexico City's most iconic boulevard. Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum announced that the Columbus statue on the Paseo de la Reforma, often a focal point for Indigenous rights protests, would be replaced by a statue honoring Indigenous women. "To them we owe ... the history of our country, of our fatherland," she said. She made the announcement on Sunday, which was International Day of the Indigenous Woman. The Columbus statue, donated to the city many years ago, was a significant reference point on the 10-lane boulevard, and surrounding traffic circle is—so far—named for it. That made it a favorite target of spray-paint-wielding protesters denouncing the European suppression of Mexico's Indigenous civilizations. It was removed last year supposedly for restoration, shortly before Oct. 12, which Americans know as Columbus Day but Mexicans call "Dia de la Raza," or "Day of the Race"—the anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas in 1492.

Haiti pledges to crack down on gangs, fight rise in crime

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's government warned Monday about a spike in kidnappings and other crimes as it pledged to fight gangs, drawing retorts from two crime bosses that any crackdown will bring greater violence aimed at police in the already unstable country. Ariel Henry, who was installed as prime minister weeks after President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated at his home in early July, said one of his priorities is to make Haiti safer. "The current situation of insecurity in the country must be addressed, as it is of great concern," he said at a news conference where the chief of Haiti's National Police, Léon Charles, provided details of what authorities have done and plan to do. Saying police have identified all gangs and the zones they control, Charles said officials launched an operation Friday against a gang called "Spitfire" whose leader was killed.

Belarus court gives opposition activists lengthy sentences

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A court in Belarus on Monday sentenced two leading opposition activists to lengthy prison terms, the latest move in the relentless crackdown that Belarusian authorities have unleashed on dissent in the wake of last year's anti-government protests. Maria Kolesnikova, a top member of the opposition Coordination Council, has been in custody since her arrest last September. A court in Minsk found her guilty of conspiring to seize power, creating an extremist organization and calling for actions damaging state security and sentenced her to 11 years in prison. Lawyer Maxim Znak, another leading member of the Coordination Council who faced the same charges, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the convictions were unjust, adding "we call for their immediate, unconditional release and for that of all other political prisoners held by the Lukashenko regime." Western European officials also denounced the sentences.

Good Housekeeping

One last chance for SUMMERTIME GRILLING

By DANIEL NEMAN
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

It can't be the end of summer. I'm not ready for summer to end.

So I did what any normal American male does when confronted with the sudden realization that his favorite season is about to end: I pouted.

But only for a short time. Then I bought a bag of charcoal and fired up the grill. There is nothing like grilling a lump of meat or a hearty vegetable to extend the pleasures of the summer and keep at bay the dying chill of autumn.

Grilling is primal, it is elementary. Thousands of years ago, our ancestors were grilling fatted calves and roasting whole lambs over a fire. They were not preparing a demi-glace with champagne vinegar and shallots to use as a sauce.

So I decided to keep my end-of-summer grilling simple and basic, or at least simple.

Also, a reader asked for easy recipes. I may be distraught that the dog days of August are reaching their tail end, but at least I'm accommodating.

I started with a cheeseburger. Yes, everybody knows how to make a cheeseburger, but I have a trick (because I read it in a book) for making it even better: You grate the cheese directly into the ground beef, along with salt and pepper.

The advantage to this method is in the timing, which is directly related to the temperature.

Ordinarily, in order to get the cheese properly melted on top of the burger, you have to put it on when the meat is still slightly undercooked. That way, the cheese finishes semi-melting just when the meat is perfectly done.

It isn't easy to get right. But with the cheese already mixed into the burger, it melts into the meat, which you can cook to the exact temperature that you like. When you eat it, you get a delightful pop of cheese flavor in nearly every bite.

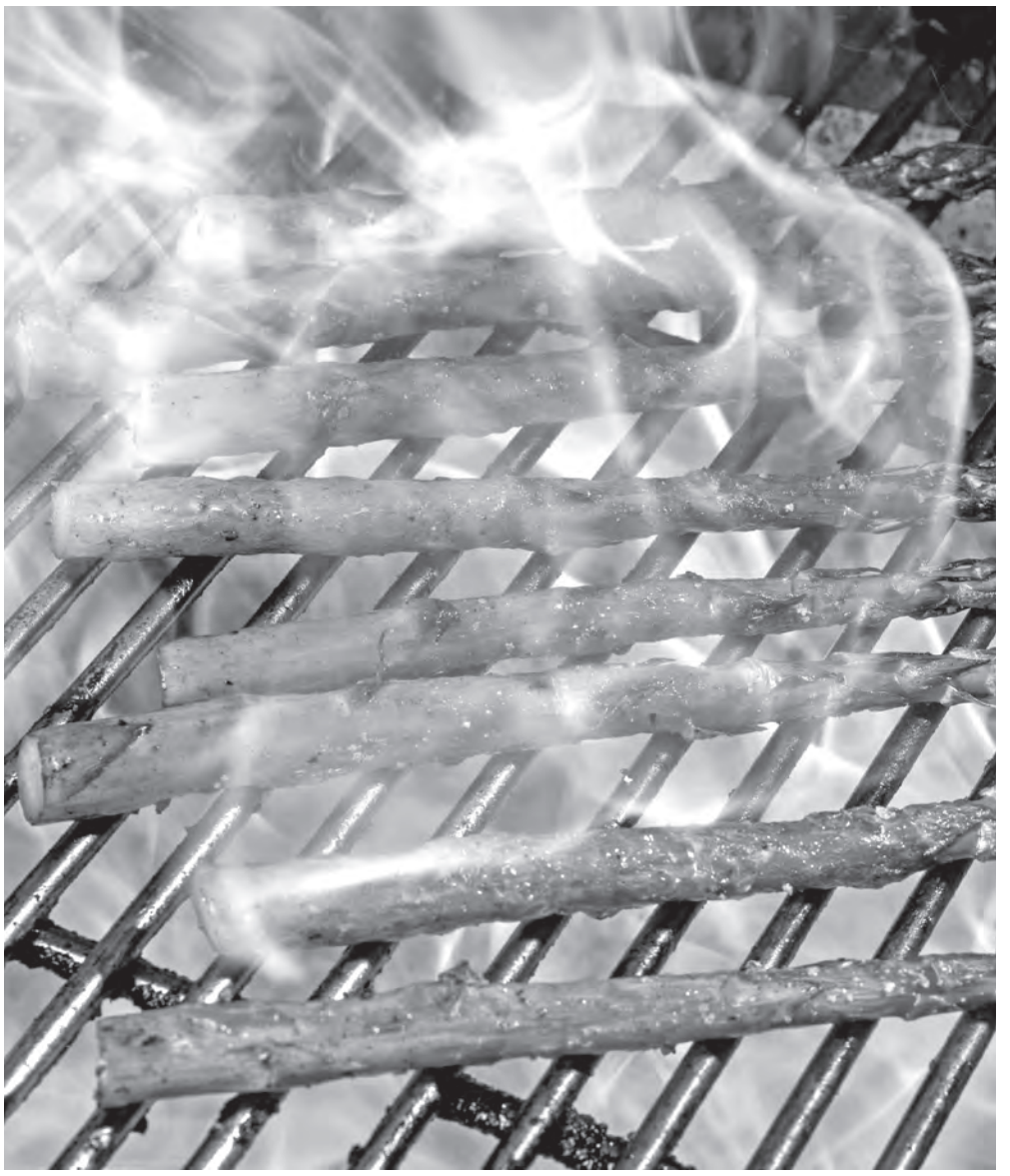
I next made one of my favorite ways to make steak. It's called Mustard Lime Steak because the steak is coated with a crust made from dry mustard, lime juice and Worcestershire sauce—and yes, I know that sounds awful.

But it isn't. It really isn't.

The sharpness of the mustard is softened by the umami earthiness of the Worcestershire sauce, with bright notes provided by the lime. It's actually kind of genius, and is as delicious as it is unexpected. And because you slice the meat thin to serve it, you can use it on almost any kind of steak.

For a vegetable dish, I went with Grilled Asparagus With Olive Oil and Parmesan, an extraordinary dish from the restaurant Chez Panisse. That's the Berkeley, California, establishment that basically started the food revolution in this country and is still cherished as one of the best in the land.

Many of its recipes are difficult, but this one is simple. Just coat asparagus spears in olive oil and season them with salt and pepper. Grill them until they are done, sprinkle with lemon juice and then top them with crispy pancetta and chopped egg.



Grilled Asparagus With Olive Oil and Parmesan, on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.
COLTER PETERSON/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/TNS

CHEESEBURGERS

Yield: 4 servings

1 1/2 pounds 80% lean ground chuck

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

4 ounces grated cheese (cheddar, Swiss, Jack, blue or other)

1. Prepare a grill for direct heat.

2. Break up the chuck to increase the surface area for the seasoning and cheese. Sprinkle the salt, pepper and cheese over the meat; toss lightly with your hands to distribute evenly. Divide the meat into 4 equal portions; with cupped hands, toss one portion of meat back and forth to form a loose ball.

3. Pat lightly to flatten meat into 3/4-inch thick burger that measures about 4 1/2 inches across. Press the center of the patty down with your fingertips until it is about 1/2-inch thick, creating a well or divot in the center of the patty. Repeat with the remaining portions of meat.

4. Grill the burgers, divot-side up, uncovered and without pressing down on them, until well seared on the bottom, about 2 1/2 minutes. Flip the burgers and continue grilling to the desired doneness, about 2 minutes for rare, 2 1/2 minutes for medium-rare, 3 minutes for medium and 4 minutes for well done.

Per serving: 546 calories; 43 g fat; 19 g saturated fat; 148 mg cholesterol; 36 g protein; 1 g carbohydrate; no sugar; no fiber; 878 mg sodium; 233 mg calcium. Recipe from "Steaks, Chops, Roasts and Ribs" by the editors of Cook's Illustrated Magazine

TANDOORI CHICKEN

Yield: 3 to 4 servings

3/4 cup plain yogurt

4 quarter-sized slices of ginger (peeling is not necessary)

4 large garlic cloves

2 tablespoons lemon juice

2 teaspoons cumin

2 teaspoons ground coriander

1 teaspoon turmeric

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper or Indian chili powder, optional, see note

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1 (3 1/2-pound) chicken, cut into serving pieces

Note: Indian chili powder, which is often spelled chilli, is available at international markets

1. In a blender or food processor, mix together yogurt, ginger, garlic, lemon juice, cumin, coriander, turmeric, salt, optional cayenne or Indian chili powder and cinnamon until smooth. Cut 2 or 3 slashes at least 1-inch deep into each chicken piece except wings. Coat chicken with marinade mixture in a bowl, cover and refrigerate 4 to 24 hours.

3. Prepare a grill with a lid for indirect heat.

4. When grill is hot (425 degrees, if using a kamado grill) put chicken on grate, skin-side up. Cover and cook 50 minutes without opening grill. Remove wings, close grill and cook 10 minutes more.

Per serving (based on 4): 596 calories; 30 g fat; 8 g saturated fat; 670 mg cholesterol; 73 g protein; 5 g carbohydrate; 1 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 846 mg sodium; 71 mg calcium

MUSTARD LIME STEAKS

Yield: 4 servings

4 steaks (sirloin, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip or skirt)

1/4 cup dry mustard, such as Colman's

1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce

1 large, juicy lime

Coarse salt

White pepper

1. Place steaks on a platter and sprinkle 2 tablespoons of the dry mustard over them. Pat the steaks with the flat part of a fork to spread the mustard evenly. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of the Worcestershire sauce, then squeeze half the lime juice over them. Pat the steaks with the fork. Season generously with salt and pepper.

2. Turn the steaks over and repeat on the other side. Let the steaks marinate for 15 to 20 minutes while you preheat the grill.

3. Set up the grill for direct grilling, and preheat to high.

4. Brush and oil the grill grate. Place the steaks on the hot grate and grill, turning with tongs, until cooked to taste, 4 to 6 minutes per side for medium-rare. Do not rotate the steaks, or you will knock off the mustard mixture. Transfer to a platter and let rest 3 minutes.

5. Slice the steaks thinly on the diagonal, as you would for London broil. Let the slices marinate in the meat juices for a minute or two, then serve.

Per serving: 808 calories; 55 g fat; 24 g saturated fat; 182 mg cholesterol; 71 g protein; 7 g carbohydrate; 2 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 960 mg sodium; 55 mg calcium. Recipe from "The Barbecue! Bible" by Steven Raichlen

GRILLED ASPARAGUS WITH OLIVE OIL AND PARMESAN

Yield: 2 servings

8 fat asparagus spears

1 tablespoon pure olive oil

Salt and pepper

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 lemon

6 thin slices pancetta

1 large egg, hard-cooked and chopped

Fresh Parmesan cheese

1. Prepare a charcoal fire.

2. Toss the asparagus in the pure olive oil, and salt and pepper them lightly. Grill the asparagus over a medium-hot fire for about 5 minutes, turning the spears until the skin is shriveled and slightly charred all over. Test the asparagus for doneness at its thickest point with the tip of a knife; the asparagus should feel soft in the center. Transfer to warm plates and drizzle with extra-virgin olive oil and juice from 1/2 lemon.

3. Grill the pancetta for several minutes until it renders some of its fat and just begins to crisp. Coarsely chop the pancetta and strew it over the asparagus while still warm; sprinkle with the chopped egg. Top with thin slices of Parmesan. Serve immediately.

Per serving: 507 calories; 48 g fat; 12 g saturated fat; 133 mg cholesterol; 23 g protein; 8 g carbohydrate; 2 g sugar; 4 g fiber; 1,650 mg sodium; 70 mg calcium. Recipe from "Chez Panisse Cooking" by Paul Bertolli and Alice Waters.

Life & Style

Andrea Constand writes of Cosby trial, #MeToo in new memoir

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Andrea Constand remained something of an enigma over the years her sexual assault allegations against Bill Cosby played out in Pennsylvania courts and the public square.

An athlete and spiritual seeker turned massage therapist, she lived a quiet life with her dogs in Toronto until the case burst open again in 2015. She had remained largely anonymous during the initial police investigation in 2005, when a local prosecutor declined to arrest Cosby. And she signed a nondisclosure agreement a year later when she settled her lawsuit against the wealthy entertainer for $3.4 million.

However, after details of the settlement—including the amount she received—were aired in court, Constand decided to tell her story in a memoir out Tuesday called "The Moment." The book lands amid a stunning turn of events in the case.

Cosby, after spending nearly three years in prison, walked free in June when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned his 2018 conviction. The court found that Cosby relied on an alleged promise from a district attorney that he would never be charged when he gave incriminating testimony in Constand's civil lawsuit—only to have it later used against him in two criminal trials.

Prosecutors in suburban Philadelphia must decide this month whether to appeal the decision to the U.S Supreme Court. Cosby recently turned 84.

"Now that I have weathered yet another strange turn in this long saga, I realize that I cannot let reversals like the (Pennsylvania) Supreme Court decision defeat me. Life is unpredictable. Much is beyond our control. In the end, happiness is all that matters and I am determined to live a happy, purposeful life," Constand writes in a late addition to the book, describing her new work as an advocate for sexual assault victims.

She and Cosby first crossed paths at Temple University in Philadelphia, where Constand, who played professional basketball in Europe, worked for the women's basketball team and he was a trustee and famed alumnus.

In a deposition, Cosby said he fell in love with Constand the moment he first saw her across the gym. Constand was half his age and dated women.

Constand

"I knew who he was, of course, but I had never watched 'The Cosby Show' and had no real idea how big a celebrity he was," she writes.

She took note, though, of the attention he commanded on campus: "His calls had to be returned immediately, his interest in our new locker room was promptly met with an offer to tour the facility."

She nonetheless found him to be "down-to-earth and affable."

She recounts the friendship and mentorship that followed, along with what she acknowledges were missed warning signs on her part, when Cosby made advances that his lawyers would later called evidence of an ongoing, consensual relationship.

Their talks included a shared interest in health and holistic medicine, which she said led her to take the pills he offered one night in January 2004, presuming they were herbal products.

She soon found her body going numb.

"My inability to control my own body was utterly terrifying. At six feet, I'm the opposite of petite. ... I had never before, even as a child, felt physically intimidated by anyone or anything. I was an athlete," she writes. "But now I had no control over my limbs."

Constand gave steady, unemotional testimony at both his first trial in 2017, which ended in a deadlock, and a second trial in 2018, when the jury convicted Cosby of drugging and violating her.

She refused to be rattled, even under a barrage of hostile questioning from the defense.

And she remained silent outside the courtroom, even as she emerged triumphant on April 26, 2018, when Cosby was convicted and a throng of cameras clicked at her.

But she offers a glimpse of her emotions in describing a secret meeting with jurors after Cosby's sentencing that fall.

Girls Aloud star Sarah Harding dies at 39 after cancer fight

LONDON (AP)—Singer Sarah Harding of the British pop group Girls Aloud has died after a battle with breast cancer, her mother said Sunday. She was 39.

Harding

The singer said last August that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer and it had spread to other parts of her body. On Sunday, her mother Marie said on Instagram: "It's with deep heartbreak that today I'm sharing the news that my beautiful daughter Sarah has sadly passed away."

"Many of you will know of Sarah's battle with cancer and that she fought so strongly from her diagnosis until her last day. She slipped away peacefully this morning," she wrote. She added that Harding was a "bright shining star" and would have wanted to be remembered for that, rather than for her fight against cancer.

Harding said earlier this year that she was told by a doctor that she will likely not be alive next Christmas. In her autobiography, released in March, she said she decided to announce her illness in the hope that others who have concerns would seek medical help and not leave a cancer diagnosis until it's too late.

Report: Filmmaker Kitano's car attacked by man with pickax

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo police have arrested a man who allegedly attacked a car carrying Japanese entertainment icon Takeshi Kitano with a pickax, though nobody was injured, according to media reports.

The 74-year-old director and actor, also known by his stage name Beat Takeshi, was in the car with his driver and was just leaving the compound of TBS television network after his weekly live talk show Saturday night, TBS and other Japanese media reported Sunday.

Kitano

The suspect allegedly smashed Kitano's car several times with a pickax, demanding Takeshi get out of the car, TBS reported. A security guard called police and the suspect was arrested at the scene, reports said.

The suspect is a man in his 40s and was also carrying a knife with a 10-centimeter (4-inch) blade, according to media reports, including Kyodo News and TBS.

Tokyo police on Monday refused to confirm the reports, though they did say that a suspect was arrested on suspicion of illegal possession of weapons.

TBS said the suspect told police that he got angry after he was ignored in June when he kneeled down before Kitano's car seeking help to let him join the entertainment industry. Police are investigating the suspect's motives, reports said.

Multi-talented Kitano is also active as a comedian, actor and writer. He won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for "Hana-Bi" in 1997 and has also directed other popular films including "Zatoichi," "Sonatine," and "Outrage."

Palace: Princess Charlene of Monaco's health 'reassuring'

PARIS (AP)—Monaco's Princess Charlene is in "reassuring" condition after being suddenly hospitalized with complications from a serious sinus infection, the principality's palace said Friday.

Princess Charlene, a former Olympic swimmer who has been on an extended stay in her home country of South Africa, suffered an unspecified "malaise" overnight Wednesday, the palace said. Earlier, palace officials said she was in stable condition. "Her Highness is followed closely by her medical team, which confirms her medical state is reassuring," the palace said in a late night statement. It did not elaborate.

Princess Charlene, 43, is married to Monaco's ruler, Prince Albert II, and they have twin children. She underwent an undisclosed operation in South Africa last month. The French newspaper Nice-Matin quoted Albert at the time as saying that "the intervention went well, the princess is resting and we think tenderly of her."

Dad's sleep 'advice' embarrasses teenage daughter

DEAR ABBY: My 16-year-old daughter, "Lily," came home from her father's very upset. She has trouble sleeping, and I have been taking her to the doctor for tests. Her father told her not to tell anyone, handed her a vibrator and told her that an orgasm will help her sleep. Lily was shocked and embarrassed that he would suggest such a thing and asked me if she could throw it away.

She no longer wants to go to his house but wants me to be the one to tell him. I'm furious that he would use such poor judgment with his 16-year-old daughter. He feels he has an open relationship with her and that I am a prude. I feel what he did was extremely inappropriate, but I'm not sure how to handle it.

OVERSTEPPED BOUNDARIES

DEAR OVERSTEPPED BOUNDARIES: Speak up! I agree that what Lily's father did was inappropriate. Further, he embarrassed his daughter, and he owes her an apology. At 16, if she no longer wants to go to his home, she should not be forced to. The attorney who handled your divorce can make that clear to him.

P.S. If Lily wants to throw her father's "gift" away, reassure her that it's her privilege.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 28 years to the perfect man. We married when I was 20 and have three grown children. There are stresses in our life, but they are mostly related to extended family. We never argue. We truly have an ideal marriage.

I work outside the home and have become "friends" with a guy there. I enjoy texting and talking with him. He's single, and he makes jokes and asks me if I'm "still married." I would never cheat on my husband, who does give me a lot of attention. So why do I do this?

GUILTY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR GUILTY: Because you are human—and the attention you are receiving is flattering. You didn't mention whether your husband is aware of the flirtation. If he isn't, that may be the reason you feel guilty.

I think it's time to clue your husband in. If you do, he may not object. However, if he is threatened, in the interest of keeping your perfect marriage perfect, let this friend know that from now on your communications will have to be strictly business.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 65-year-old married man dealing with feelings I have never felt before. During the day I am reliving bad issues that happened in my marriage 25 years ago, and I am dreaming about them at night. I thought I was long past it. It makes me physically ill sometimes, and I think it's getting worse. In past letters you have written that you need to move on, tomorrow is another day, leave the past in the past and such. I get it. I WANT to. My question is: "Where is the switch located that I turn to the off position?"

MARTIN IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MARTIN: You will find the "switch" you're looking for in the office of a licensed mental health professional. When intrusive thoughts from the past become so overwhelming that they make you physically ill, it's time to get more help than anyone can give you in a letter or a newspaper. Please don't wait. Your physician or your insurance company can refer you.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE HAD TROUBLE CHOOSING A NEW HOBBY.
FIRST I WANTED TO COLLECT BUGS.
THEN I WANTED TO COLLECT STAMPS
WHAT DID YOU DECIDE ON?
STAMPED BUGS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD HAS A "BIG IDEA" COMING.
IT'S LIKE A HUGE BUBBLE, RISING TO THE SURFACE.
IS IT A BOOK IDEA? A NEW NOVEL?
IT COULD BE. I CAN'T TELL YET. BUT IT'S ALMOST HERE.
THE SUSPENSE!
IT'S WILD!
GET MY IDEA PAD! SHE'S GONNA BLOW!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

So, HAVE YOU DECIDED TO GIVE ME THE HOME-IMPROVEMENT LOAN?
SORRY, YOUR REQUEST DOESN'T QUALIFY.
IF BULLDOZING ALL THE OTHER HOMES ON MY BLOCK TO BUILD MY OWN BREWERY ISN'T HOME IMPROVEMENT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Swiss peak
4 "Spring ahead" hrs.
7 Nile queen, familiarly
8 Red-hot
10 Parlor pieces
11 Concurred
13 Changing one's approach
16 Sturgeon product
17 Parson's home
18 Novelist Grafton
19 "Ratatouille" rat
20 Webmaster's code
21 Sacred songs
23 Hee-haws
25 Cote calls
26 Sulk
27 Shade provider
28 "Hamerin' Hank"
30 Drs. who deliver
33 "Shout" band
36 Snapshots
37 Hotel posting
38 Love, Italian-style
39 Always
40 Mine yield
41 Poetic dusk

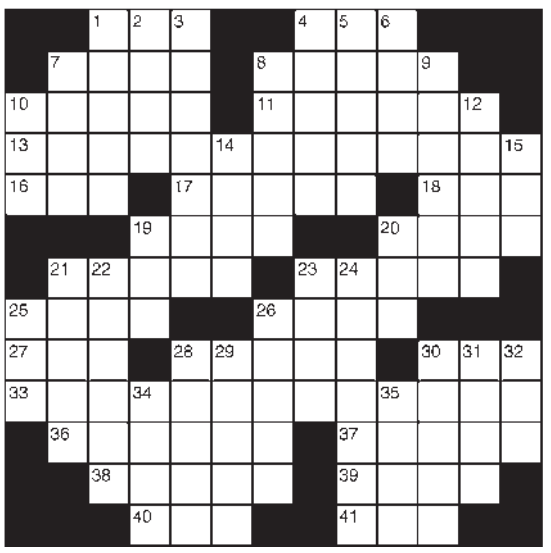
DOWN

1 Michael Caine title role
2 Piece of lettuce
3 Some mail carriers
4 "Rent" actor Taye
5 Suit fabric
6 Nest setting
7 Silver salmon
8 Brice of "Funny Girl"
9 Like bread dough
10 Old map letters
12 Ringo's set
14 Pet food brand
15 French salt
19 Apt. divisions
20 Stetson, e.g.
21 2019 Wimbledon winner Simona
22 Motorcycle maker
23 Rude dude
24 Roam without restraint
25 Wager
26 Plain writing
28 John Jacob —
29 Earlier, in verse
30 Like Cheerios
31 Rabbit's title
32 Snake's warning
34 Former QB Tony
35 Roof edge

Solution time: 23 mins.

O	V	E	R		C	P	A		C	U	D		
P	E	L	E		A	R	I		U	S	A	F	
E	R	A	S		C	O	_	O	N	E	L	S	
C	O	L	O	R	T	V		R	A	D	I	O	
			R	O	I		P	A	R				
C	R	E	T	E		C	O	L	D	E	S		
D	E	E			C	A	P			M	E	H	
C	O	L	L	I	E	R		A	B	B	E	Y	
			E	C	C		T	O	O				
A	M	I	G	O		C	O	L	B	E	R		
C	O	L	A	N	D	E	R		C	R	E	E	
T	A	L	C		J	U	T		A	M	A	N	
E	T	S	Y		C	S	S		T	A	R	S	

Yesterday's answer 9-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pepi Sonuga, 28; Pink, 42; David Arquette, 50; Neko Case, 51.

Happy Birthday: Take the helm and make your way to the destination of choice. It's up to you to pick your path and to oversee every detail if you want to be responsible for your happiness and peace of mind. Separate intelligence from emotion, and treat each situation you encounter with integrity and determination. Raise your profile, and let your reputation precede you. Your numbers are 4, 11, 21, 24, 32, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a stroll down memory lane with someone who shares your sentiments. Make plans that will allow more time to work with people who value what you have to offer. A commitment will help stabilize your life. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Rule out indulgence, and put your energy into something worthwhile. Focus on what interests you and how best to use your skills to accommodate your dreams. Refuse to let stubbornness or challenges stand between you and what you want to achieve. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Avoid people who gossip. Learn from experience, and don't reveal your intentions. Network and attend seminars that will give you a platform to show off what you know and can do, and you will outshine anyone who challenges you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't give up or let emotions take over. Ignore negativity, take charge of your happiness and distance yourself from anyone who says or does something to disrupt life. Make personal growth and physical improvement your priorities. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Study the economic changes taking place, and adjust the way you handle your financial affairs. Keep up with the trends, and position yourself to step in as others become dinosaurs. Take advantage of an opportunity to shine, and you will excel. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Everything depends on detail, precision and discipline. Choose intelligence, and you'll maintain a dependable reputation. Ensure the work you do represents what you are trying to accomplish, and you'll get the results you want. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A trip down memory lane will confirm your thoughts regarding home, lifestyle, health and happiness. Take physical action to ensure that you do what you can to uncover every option available to you. Self-improvements are featured. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refuse to let anyone or anything limit what you can do. Stand up for your rights, and make your voice heard. Participate in events that offer insight into what's possible. Make the most of your time and effort. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You have more leverage than you think. Dissect what others do and say, and you'll realize you have just as much to offer. Focus on getting ahead, beating the competition, doing your best to win and excel. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Think before you act. You'll face opposition that will be difficult to beat if you haven't done your homework. Don't share too much, or you will end up in a vulnerable position. Home improvements and financial maneuvers are in your best interest. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Spend more time planning and less time letting others decide for you. Move forward in secrecy until you feel fully prepared to disclose your intentions. A financial gain looks promising. Handle loved ones with care and compassion. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let change consume you. Look at the logistics, then make a smart move. Keep your expenses down, and pay attention to what's important to you. A change in direction will give you the boost you need. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are precise, reliable and persistent. You are systematic and admired.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	9	1						
4			2			9		
5		6		4		2	1	
	7			3				
		3	9		8	1		
				6			3	
		9		7		3		6
	4				2			1
7						5	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	9	4	6	5	1	2	7	8
2	5	6	7	8	3	4	1	9
8	7	1	2	4	9	3	6	5
4	8	3	9	6	7	5	2	1
5	1	7	3	2	8	6	9	4
9	6	2	5	1	4	8	3	7
1	2	9	8	3	5	7	4	6
7	3	8	4	9	6	1	5	2
6	4	5	1	7	2	9	8	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ONLINE SHOPPING THERAPY — Solution: 11 letters

T	C	L	R	E	N	E	N	O	H	P	D	A	E	H
O	S	T	O	P	R	G	S	E	G	R	A	H	C	T
Y	H	R	N	O	U	N	E	T	R	A	V	E	L	C
S	D	T	E	A	T	I	L	I	T	Ⓖ	T	S	P	E
G	S	S	L	D	L	P	E	P	Ⓘ	P	N	C	R	N
S	N	E	E	A	R	P	C	Ⓕ	A	O	S	U	I	N
E	E	I	R	L	E	O	Ⓣ	N	I	Y	T	E	C	O
C	M	R	M	D	A	H	T	T	D	I	M	O	E	C
L	A	O	O	A	D	S	C	T	N	R	A	E	S	F
O	C	C	H	T	G	A	O	R	E	E	R	D	N	Y
T	C	E	D	E	S	N	U	A	P	V	D	I	T	T
H	O	D	M	N	L	F	P	C	S	I	E	V	N	U
I	U	A	A	I	F	O	O	T	W	E	A	R	E	A
N	N	R	N	L	A	U	N	N	A	W	L	S	V	E
G	T	E	S	A	H	C	R	U	P	S	A	V	E	B

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Account, Address, Annual, Beauty, Cart, Charges, Clothing, Connect, Coupon, Deal, Décor, Event, Fees, Footwear, Furniture, Gaming, Gift, Headphone, Health, Home, Name, Online, Order, Pants, Payment, Plant, Pots, Prices, Purchase, Reviews, Sales, Save, Select, Shopping, Spend, Stores, Tech, Tool, Toys, Transactions, Travel, Turn, Video

Yesterday's Answer: Squinting

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Djokovic extends Slam bid; 1st time no US players in Open QF

NEW YORK (AP)—For 1 1/2 sets, including one particularly compelling and competitive 24-point game, Novak Djokovic's fourth-round opponent at the U.S. Open—Jenson Brooksby, the last American left in singles—gave him fits amid a raucous atmosphere at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

That let Djokovic, above all, and everyone else, know that Brooksby—a 20-year-old wild-card entry from California who is ranked 99th and never before had been on this sort of stage—belonged. And then, not surprisingly, Djokovic showed why he is who he is and how he's managed to move within three victories of the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis in 52 years.

Settling in and sending messages, to the fans with roars and to Brooksby with some staredowns, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic improved to 25-0 in majors this year by winning 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 on Monday night. He extended his pursuit of a true Grand Slam and a record-breaking 21st major championship, while also making this the first time in the history of the U.S. Open, an event that dates to the 1880s, with zero men or women from the host country in the quarterfinals.

"Was a good finish. It wasn't a good tart," said Djokovic, who hopes to add a fourth U.S. Open title to a collection that's been boosted by his ninth at the Australian Open in February, second at the French Open in June and sixth at Wimbledon in July.

He next meets No. 6 Matteo Berrettini of Italy in a rematch of the final at the All England Club.

One key to Monday's turnaround: Djokovic broke in Brooksby's initial service game in each of the last three sets.

Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, serves against Jenson Brooksby, of the United States, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, in New York. AP

"I wanted to wear him down," Djokovic said, "and it worked."

Affected by a left hip that bothered him earlier in the tournament, Brooksby was visited by a trainer after the second set and again after the third. Still, for someone who never had set foot on Ashe's blue court until about two hours before the match, when he got a chance to practice there, Brooksby never seemed overwhelmed by the setting or the circumstances.

"We're going to see a lot of him in the future," said Djokovic, who would be the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Slam trophies in one year. "I mean, he has the means. Now, obviously a lot of things have to come together. But he has a bit of an unorthodox game. Does a lot with the feel. He's smart. He knows how to win points."

Brooksby's 6-foot-4 strides and reach, his anticipation, his variety that includes a well-disguised two-handed backhand slice, his think-steps-ahead point construction, his commitment to patterns drawn up by his coach at home in Sacramento since age 7, Joe Gilbert—all left Djokovic a tad discombobulated early.

"I knew it would be important to start strong, to impose my mindset and my strategy, my game out there," Brooksby said. "I could see it working. I really did have a lot of confidence in myself out there that I can beat him, I can beat anybody."

In the first set, Brooksby made one unforced error, Djokovic 11. And Brooksby won 14 of the points that lasted five strokes or more, Djokovic four.

When Djokovic netted an overhead to move Brooksby two points from the set, most of the spectators in the 23,000-plus-capacity arena—excited to be back after last year's ban on audiences amid the pandemic—rose, clapping and screaming.

When Djokovic missed a return to cede that set to his foe, Brooksby waved both arms and heard more loud support.

"Electric. Awesome. I enjoyed it. I truly did," said Djokovic, who soon would be hearing his own cheers. "You guys gave both of the players a lot of energy."

He broke to go up 2-0 in the second set and punched the air and shouted. At 3-1 arrived an epic game: six break chances, nice deuces, 24 points in all, spread out over nearly 20 minutes. Djokovic pushed the ball into the net to end that game and make it 3-2, prompting Brooksby to hop and jump and windmill his arm and cry, "Let's go!"

And then, quick as can be, Djokovic regrouped. With Brooksby gasping for air, Djokovic broke right back and, soon enough, the outcome was clear.

"The momentum," declared Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia, "was changed."

The other quarterfinals on the men's side: No. 4 Alexander Zverev of Germany vs. Lloyd Harris of South Africa, No. 12 Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada vs. 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz of Spain, and No. 2 Daniil Medevev of Russia vs. qualifier Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands.

The women's round-of-eight matchups: No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus vs. No. 8 Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic, No. 5 Elina Svitolina of Ukraine vs. 19-year-old Leylah Fernandez of Canada, No. 11 Belinda Bencic of Switzerland vs. 18-year-old qualifier Emma Raducanu of Britain, and No. 4 Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic against No. 17 Maria Sakkari of Greece.

Sakkari beat 2019 champion Bianca Andreescu 6-7 (2), 7-6 (6), 6-3 in a match that ended at 2:13 a.m., making it the latest-finishing women's match in tournament history.

"I hope you will not be late for work tomorrow," Sakkari told those fans who stayed until the end. "Go get some sleep and I'll see you in two days."

Brooksby's exit—certainly no shame in losing to Djokovic, of course—followed the fourth-round departures earlier Monday by No. 22 seed Reilly Opelka from the men's draw with a 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 loss to Harris, and by unseeded Shelby Rogers from the women's draw with a 6-2, 6-1 loss to Raducanu.

Rogers upset Ash Barty, a two-time major champion who is ranked No. 1, in the third round, but was unable to produce the same level of tennis in what she termed a "pretty embarrassing" performance Monday.

The brackets began with 43 Americans in the singles fields.

"We've got a huge group of guys there," Opelka said. "We just don't have the world-beaters."

Rogers braces for social media abuse after ugly US Open loss

NEW YORK (AP)—Shelby Rogers had no shortage of people singing her praises after she upset No. 1 seed Ash Barty.

She knew how much the tone would change after the American followed that by getting routed by Emma Raducanu on Monday.

"Obviously we appreciate the spotlight in those moments. But then, you know, you have today and I'm going to have 9 million death threats and whatnot," Rogers said. "It's very much polarizing, one extreme to the other very quickly."

Rogers jumped to a quick lead and had a break point to go up 3-0, then dropped 11 straight games in a 6-2, 6-1 loss to the 18-year-old from Britain. She said afterward she kind of wished social media didn't exist, because hers was going to be filled with negativity.

"It's a big part of marketing now. We have contracts, we have to post certain things," Rogers said. "I don't know, you could probably go through my profile right now, I'm probably a fat pig and, you know, words that I can't say right now.

"But, I mean, it is what it is. You try not to take it to heart, and it's the unfortunate side of any sport and what we do."

Sloane Stephens called attention to it by sharing abusive Instagram messages she received after the 2017 champion lost to Angelique Kerber in the third round. She posted that she had received more than 2,000 negative messages after that defeat.

Rogers said players try to ignore that, though it's difficult.

"You know, just focusing on the important things, not comments from people in their mom's basement," Rogers said. "It's really unfortunate and some of it does get to your head sometimes. I mean, they write some true things sometimes for sure—you're up a break and you have another break point. These are facts.

"But social media can't control what I'm doing and the way my training is going to go moving forward, but I wish it didn't exist. It's really tough."

OPELKA OUT

Reilly Opelka smacked a half-dozen aces in the opening game of his fourth-round U.S. Open match against Lloyd Harris, including one at 136 mph to take a 1-0 lead. Good sign, right? Not quite.

The problem for Opelka, an American seeded 22nd, is that it was a 22-point game that included six break points for Harris. And Opelka only put 60% of his first serves in, 13 of 22.

That was a hint of things to come on a day that Harris, an unseeded South African, and not Opelka, was the one who managed to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by producing a 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 victory Monday.

Both men are top-notch servers, and Harris wound up with a 36-24 edge in aces and a 76-65 edge in first-serve percentage. He also accumulated 17 break points and converted six. Opelka went 1 for 2 in that category as a returner.

"I wasn't hitting my spots. It was an uncharacteristic serving day for me. That changed the whole thing," Opelka said. "I mean, even if it was a characteristic serving day, I wasn't going to break him much. He was serving unbelievable."

BIRTHDAY BOOK

Leylah Fernandez got some new reading material on her 19th birthday.

A day after reaching the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open, the Canadian was given a signed copy of Billie Jean King's autobiography "All In" as a gift.

Fernandez and partner Erin Routliffe fell 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 to Monica Niculescu and Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania in a third-round women's doubles match. As they returned from the court to the locker room area at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Fernandez was met by U.S. Open tournament director Stacey Allaster, who gave Fernandez birthday cupcakes and the book.

King wrote: "To Leylah—Happy 19th Birthday. Continue to Dream Big and cherish every moment!"

Fernandez faces No. 5 seed Elina Svitolina on Tuesday in the quarterfinals.

Meadows helps Rays rally for wild 11-10 win over Red Sox

BOSTON (AP)—Down by six runs, facing Red Sox ace Chris Sale and playing at Fenway Park, the Tampa Bay Rays were just getting warmed up.

Add another remarkable win in a charmed season for these resilient Rays.

Austin Meadows hit a tying, inside-the-park homer in the ninth inning, Nelson Cruz had a go-ahead single in the 10th and Tampa Bay rallied past Boston 11-10 on Monday.

"That's the biggest win of the year, for sure," Meadows said. "All year we just find a way."

The team with the best record in the American League—and the highest-scoring club in the majors—posted its MLB-leading 43rd come-from-behind win. The Rays had been 0-69 all-time when trailing by six or more runs against Boston.

The AL East leaders took advantage of four errors, the biggest when center fielder Alex Verdugo appeared to lose Cruz's high fly in the sun with bases loaded and two outs in the fourth.

The ball glanced off Verdugo's glove and Cruz wound up circling the bases on the play, scoring on second baseman Taylor Motter's wild throw that let Tampa Bay close to 7-5 against Sale.

Cruz also homered and had a pair of RBI singles as the Rays increased their AL East lead to 8 1/2 games over New York. The Red Sox missed a chance to move ahead of the Yankees for the top AL wild-card spot.

"You can't give a big league team more than 27 outs and we did," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "The whole day today they made us pay."

The Red Sox led 9-8 when Meadows opened the ninth by hitting a full-count fastball from Garrett Whitlock (7-3) off the center field wall at Fenway Park, just out of reach of a leaping Verdugo. Boston fumbled the relay, allowing Meadows to beat the throw home.

Cruz singled home the tie-breaking run with one out in the 10th, then scored on a single by Brandon Lowe that right fielder Hunter Renfore threw away for an error. In all, the Rays scored six unearned runs.

Trailing 11-9 in the 10th, Boston got within a run when Jose Iglesias hit an RBI single off Collin McHugh (6-1). With one out and runners at first and second, J.D. Martinez lined out to right.

Rafael Devers drew a walk to load the bases, but pinch-hitter Kevin Plawecki grounded out to end the game.

Wander Franco had four hits for the Rays. The 20-year-old rookie reached in his 36th straight game, tying Mickey Mantle's AL record set in 1951-52 for the most consecutive times by a player under 21; Frank Robinson set the major league mark of 43 in 1956.

Tampa Bay Rays' Austin Meadows, right, slides safely home with an inside-the-park home run as Boston Red Sox catcher Christian Vazquez, left, waits for the throw during the ninth inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, at Fenway Park in Boston. AP

Sale allowed five runs, only one of them earned, and 10 hits in 3 2/3 innings. It marked his shortest outing since returning from Tommy John surgery last month.

Sale retired the first two batters in the fourth with a 7-1 lead before the Rays rallied in the inning, capped by Verdugo's misplay.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 0

In New York, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 40th homer, Marcus Semien went deep twice and the Blue Jays beat the Yankees for their fifth straight win.

Hyun Jin Ryu (13-8) pitched six effective innings as the Blue Jays won for the eighth time in nine games.

Guerrero hit his 40th homer on Jameson Taillon's 13th pitch. The slugger and his Hall of Fame father joined Cecil and Prince Fielder as the second father-son duo to hit 40 homers.

Semien hit a solo drive in the first and his fifth career grand slam in the ninth.

The Yankees lost for the seventh time in nine games following their first 13-game win streak since 1961. Taillon (8-6) allowed three runs and three hits in seven innings.

Dodgers 5, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Max Scherzer struck out 13 in his hometown and Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer, leading the Dodgers to the win.

Scherzer (13-4) permitted one unearned run and six hits in eight innings. The three-time Cy Young Award winner is six strikeouts away from becoming the 19th player in big league history to reach 3,000.

The Cardinals lost for the fourth time in five games. They dropped 3 1/2 games back of idle San Diego for the second NL wild card.

St. Louis right-hander Miles Mikolas (0-2) was charged with five runs, four earned, and five hits in five innings. Paul Goldschmidt had three hits for the Cardinals, and Tommy Edman scored the team's only run on Austin Barnes' passed ball in the sixth.

Giants 10, Rockies 5

In Denver, Thairo Estrada hit two of San Francisco's four home runs, and Kevin Gausman pitched seven solid innings.

The major league-best Giants (88-50) remained one game ahead of the Dodgers in the NL West.

Darin Ruf and Buster Posey also went deep for San Francisco. Gausman (13-5) allowed three runs and five hits, and he also singled and scored a run.

Trevor Story hit a two-run homer for Colorado in the eighth. Ryan McMahon and Garrett Hampson also went deep.

Rockies lefty Kyle Freeland was tagged for seven runs in 4 1/3 innings.

Rangers 4, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Calif., A.J. Alexy allowed one hit over six innings in his second straight phenomenal start to begin his major league career, and Jose Trevino drove in two runs as Texas blanked Los Angeles.

Alexy (2-0) retired his final 13 batters and didn't allow a baserunner after the second inning. He became the first pitcher in modern major league history to go at least five scoreless innings while allowing fewer than two hits as a starter in each of his first two career appearances.

Alexy struck out seven while winning his duel with Jaime Barría (2-3), who yielded eight hits and three runs over seven innings.

DJ Peters and Yonny Hernández drove in early runs before Trevino added an RBI double in the seventh and a run-scoring single in the ninth for the last-place Rangers, who split the four-game series with two straight wins at Angel Stadium.

Jared Walsh had two of the Angels' five hits.

Phillies 12, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Bryce Harper hit an early home run, Brad Miller connected twice and Jean Segura added a grand slam, leading Zack Wheeler and the Phillies to the win.

Andrew McCutchen and Freddy Galvis also homered as Philadelphia won for the eighth time in the last 10 games to stay in the playoff chase. The Phillies have beaten the NL Central-leading Brewers five straight times this year.

Wheeler (12-9) threw six crisp innings, outpitching Brandon Woodruff (9-8) in a rematch of All-Star righties.

Harper gave the Phillies a quick lead with his 28th homer, a two-run drive in the first. Galvis connected in the second and Miller homered to lead off the fourth.

Cubs 4, Reds 3

In Chicago, Frank Schwindel hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning, and the Cubs earned their season-high seventh straight win.

Schwindel's single through the right side scored Alfonso Rivas, who started the rally with a pinch-hit single off Michael Lorenzen (0-2) and advanced to second on a wild pitch.

Schwindel is batting .441 (15 for 34) with six homers and 14 RBIs during his current eight-game hitting streak.

The Reds (73-66) lost for the seventh time in nine games. They dropped to one game back of idle San Diego for the second NL wild card.

Codi Heuer, Scott Effross (2-0) and Adam Morgan combined for four scoreless innings in relief of Justin Steele. Morgan earned his second save.

Ian Happ hit a three-run homer in the first for the Cubs.

Nationals 4, Mets 3

In Washington, Carter Kieboom and Andrew Stevenson hit RBI singles in the ninth inning off Edwin Díaz, and the Nationals rallied in the finale of a five-game series.

The Nationals, who had lost eight of their last nine, were 1 for 14 with runners in scoring position prior to the ninth.

Pete Alonso hit his 30th home run of the season for New York, which fell four games behind idle Atlanta in the NL East.

It was the second blown save in four days for Díaz (5-5), who is 1-3 with a 12.71 ERA in 10 games as a Met at Nationals Park.

Kyle Finnegan (5-6) pitched two scoreless innings for Washington, which won twice in the series.

Twins 5, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Jorge Polanco hit a solo homer and doubled three times, leading Minnesota to the victory.

Polanco connected for his 27th homer in the third. He doubled in the first, fifth and seventh, and then struck out in the ninth.

Franmil Reyes connected to give the Indians at least one homer in a franchise-record 20 straight games. The team's previous single-season record was set in May 2000.

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli returned to Minnesota on Sunday for the birth of his child. Coach Bill Evers is filling in for Baldelli.

Michael Pineda (5-8) pitched three scoreless innings for the win, and Alex Colomé worked the ninth for his 12th save.

Cleveland's Logan Allen (1-6) allowed five runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Royals 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Andrew Benintendi hit a go-ahead single for Kansas City in the eighth inning, then reached above the left-field wall to take away a potential tying home run in the ninth.

Anthony Santander led off the Orioles ninth with a fly that Benintendi caught, plucking the ball just above the fence.

Hanser Alberto homered against his former team, helping the Royals win in their first visit to Camden Yards since August 2019. Benintendi provided the lead with an RBI hit off Cole Sulser (4-4).

Domingo Tapia (2-0) got the win after throwing 1 2/3 hitless innings. Scott Barlow earned his 11th save.

Cedric Mullins homered for Baltimore for the second consecutive day.

Pirates 6, Tigers 3

In Pittsburgh, Ke'Bryan Hayes and Yoshi Tsutsugo each hit a two-run single during Pittsburgh's four-run seventh inning, and the Pirates stopped their six-game losing streak.

Hayes finished with three hits, and Tsutsugo, Jacob Stallings and Cole Tucker each had two. Kevin Newman hit a two-run homer in the first for Pittsburgh.

Chasen Shreve (3-1) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win. David Bednar struck out the side in the ninth for his third save. He has a sparkling 0.86 ERA in 29 games since June 18.

The Tigers got two hits from Robbie Grossman. Kyle Funkhouser (6-3) gave up all four runs in the seventh to take the loss.

Astros 11, Mariners 2

In Houston, rookie Jake Meyers homered and drove in four runs as Houston jumped on Yusei Kikuchi early and sailed to a win over Seattle.

Kikuchi (7-8) allowed three hits but was done in by an error behind him and four walks, which equaled a season high, over 1 2/3 innings in his shortest start this season. He gave up six runs, four earned.

The victory ended a two-game skid for the AL West leaders and snapped Seattle's five-game winning streak.

Houston starter Lance McCullers Jr. (11-4) permitted four hits and two runs with seven strikeouts in six innings for his third consecutive win.

AFC clearly the deeper, more powerful conference

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

It's almost as if the NFL is emulating college football heading into the 2021 season. Yes, the Buccaneers are the defending champions and the Packers deservedly have title aspirations.

The rest of the NFC, well, it looks more like Conference USA in comparison to the AFC, the professional version of the SEC. It is that lopsided.

Consider the likes of the Chiefs, Bills, Ravens, Browns, Steelers,Titans,Colts, Dolphins,Patriots and Chargers. All have their supporters as Super Bowl contenders, with Kansas City, Buffalo, Baltimore and Cleveland ahead of a packed field.

On the other side, it's difficult to take anyone seriously in the NFC East or North (aside from Green Bay). While the NFC West is strong and will be tightly contested, all four members—Rams, Seahawks, 49ers, Cardinals—have major questions the Bucs, who brought back virtually everyone—a rare feat for a Super Bowl winner, even one with Tom Brady at quarterback—and Packers already pretty much have answered.

"You want the road to the Super Bowl, the road to where we want to get to, to be as hard as possible," says Titans safety Kevin Byard. "I think that's something we can be proud of, and it also keeps us on our toes to let us know, 'Hey there's a lot of competition out there for the AFC championship or just the Super Bowl. We have to go out here every single day and work as hard as we can and not take any days for granted. Because at the end of the day ... it's a crowded race, it's kind of like a horse race ... You got to keep going on.

"It's not one of those deals where you can get ahead early and think you can slack off. No, every single day we have to put the work in and not necessarily really get caught up on who's 5-0 early in the year, just keeping our heads down working and we'll see where we're at at the end of the year."

Adds Browns safety John Johnson III, who jumped conferences this season, signing with Cleveland as a free agent after four years with the Rams:

"You got some big-time contenders—even just in this division alone. And then you look at Buffalo and Kansas City and you never know who else in that division with Kansas City can come alive. Denver can come alive, so I think it is pretty competitive, and it's a different game."

A different game in every way, because the continuing COVID-19 pandemic likely will be a competitive factor as the NFL plays a 17-game regular season for the first time.

Vaccinated players have a distinct freedom advantage in how they can conduct their lives—at least for now—compared to the unvaccinated. More than 93% of the players have gotten the vaccine, but it doesn't take much to cause an outbreak, as the Titans and Cowboys witnessed during the preseason.

"There's people's livelihoods at stake in terms of people's jobs," Bills coach Sean McDermott said late last month; Buffalo has had one of the lowest vaccination rates of the 32 teams. "Being able to count on people is important, so when you're going through a week—if this were a real week—and having the players out that we've had, that makes it harder to win games that way."

In this Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021, file photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) hands off the ball during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Houston. AP

Titans' outbreak nears end, other NFL teams deal with COVID

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee Titans' COVID-19 outbreak is nearing an end even with two starting offensive linemen still on the reserve list.

Not everyone around the NFL may be as healthy to kick off this season with COVID-19 proving to be an issue hovering over another season.

"Everybody, whether it's the league, whether it's your family, my family, we all have to just understand that we're going to deal with some things," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said Monday. "We're going to deal with positive test results from vaccinated people. We'll follow the protocols how we have to and try to be as safe as we possibly can."

Vrabel, who said last spring he was vaccinated, was the first to test positive Aug. 22 in an outbreak that reached at least 14, including 10 players. Vrabel is optimistic that both center Ben Jones and right guard Nate Davis will be back soon enough to practice before the Titans host Arizona in the season opener Sunday.

Other NFL teams may be without starters for their openers.

Miami put its presumed starting left tackle Austin Jackson and backup tight end Adam Shaheen on the COVID-19 reserve list Monday ahead of Sunday's opener at New England. Carolina starting right guard John Miller also went on the reserve list Monday and will miss the Panthers' home opener against the Jets.

Miller will be out 10 days, which indicates under league rules he was unvaccinated and tested positive. Carolina coach Matt Rhule said last week only two Panthers' players had not been vaccinated.

The Jets are waiting to see if wide receiver Jamison Crowder will be available after going on the reserve list last Friday after testing positive. Vaccinated, Crowder needs to test negative 24 hours apart twice under NFL protocols.

Dallas likely will be without four-time Pro Bowl right guard Zack Martin for its opener Thursday night at Tampa Bay.

All-Pro safety Tyrann Mathieu, who is vaccinated, remained out Monday after his positive test for COVID-19 as the two-time defending AFC champions began preparing Monday for their season opener against Cleveland.

Ryan Tannehill was just starting to practice with AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year Derrick Henry, seven-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Julio Jones and Pro Bowl receiver A.J. Brown when the Titans quarterback was put on the reserve list Aug. 26. He was activated Saturday and was on the field Monday.

AJ LIZAMA

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the first round before going yard five times in 10 attempts in the second. Teregeyo struggled in the finale though, going four out of 10.

Tudela finished with 13 homeruns after smacking five in the first round, another five in the second, and then slowed down a bit in the third with just three moon balls.

In the cornhole tournament, Ikluk Masayos and Patrick Deleon Guerrero lorded it over everyone and took home a Bud Light Seltzer board and a Budweiser prize package worth $220.

Second place went to Brad Lieto and Denny Jepen. They won $140 plus a Bud Light Seltzer package, while Russel Hocog and Juan Diaz wound up third and got a Bud Light Seltzer package.

In the tournament proper held earlier Sunday, Kliq extinguished the twice-to-beat advantage of erstwhile undefeated Klal Boys to the win the championship. Kliq earned $1,000 plus a set of 12 uniforms. Runner-up Klal Boys settled for $750, while third place Alapatiw Alongaal got $500 for third place. Pues OK 4Nate pocketed $350 for taking fourth place.

The Budweiser King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament was organized by Roil Soil Marketing and aside from the title sponsor, other companies that supported the competition are AllStar Sporting Goods, Saipan Select, Power 99, and *Marianas Variety*.

Roil Soil Marketing's Shayne Villanueva congratulated the winners and thanked all the teams and players, sponsors, and volunteers for the successful staging of the Budweiser King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament.

"We are happy that we chose to put on Budweiser's King of the Diamond Tournament. It was great to see all the players and teams bring out their best performances all the way down to the very last out. We appreciate all the fans who came out to support and also followed us on our live stream. We definitely couldn't do this without the help of our sponsors, our grounds crew, our stats guys and umpires. We are grateful for everyone's help," he said.

FORMER

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for next year's 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games that the Commonwealth will be hosting for the very first time next year.

"He was helpful with the Saipan triathlon group especially to the Filipinos in promoting the sport and willingly offered to conduct triathlon camps during the time of his visits to Saipan," added Sitchon.

In a social media post, TRAC secretary general Ricky Castro shared the accident that befell the triathlon bronze medalist in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

"We are deeply saddened to share the news of a terrible accident that happened to our dear friend Arland Macasieb. Former XTERRA and Tagaman Triathlon participant Arland Macasieb met an accident while biking in N.J., USA...let's help Arland overcome the biggest challenge of his life," he said.

Macasieb also endeared himself to the CNMI triathlon community with his habit of crossing the finish line by doing handstands and, of course, his infectious smile.

According to the Fairfield Police Department, Macasieb was struck by a motor vehicle on Two Bridges Road near the entrance to Route 46 East last Sept. 4, at approximately 12:45pm.

Preliminary investigation indicates that Macasieb was traveling north on Two Bridges Road and crossing the entrance ramp for Route 46 East when he was allegedly struck by a custom 1959 Chevrolet Corvette operated by John Lehr, 60, of North Caldwell, N.J.

The Corvette was initially attempting to enter onto Route 46 East and apparently Lehr did not see the bicyclist before he struck him. It appears that Macasieb may have been dragged as far as 100 feet before the Corvette finally stopped.

Macasieb was transported to St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson for treatment. Lehr was issued a series of summons to include allegedly having an unsafe vehicle, careless and reckless driving, and for making an unsafe lane change.

In the Go Fund Me page set up by Noriel Simsuangco on behalf of Macasieb's partner, Twinkle Marie Mangabat, Macasieb was described as having been a big influence to the Fil-Am community in U.S. and also in the triathlon community in the Philippines.

"He has been an inspiration to many people and have given so much to many athletes globally. We humbly ask that we give him back the support that he needs during these challenging times."

The GoFundMe Page can be accessed through https://www.gofundme.com/f/lets-help-arland-fight-the-race-of-his-life?fbclid=IwAR0qLFJFDcmeKWJWTkhA_2rPfDX_cH4KfUVm7z2EcxgndT2cBjGs5NEJRZw

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	87	51	.630	_
New York	78	59	.569	8½
Boston	79	61	.564	9
Toronto	74	62	.544	12
Baltimore	43	93	.316	43

Central Division

Chicago	79	58	.577	_
Cleveland	68	67	.504	10
Detroit	65	74	.468	15
Kansas City	62	75	.453	17
Minnesota	60	77	.438	19

West Division

Houston	80	57	.584	_
Seattle	75	63	.543	5½
Oakland	74	63	.540	6
Los Angeles	68	70	.493	12½
Texas	49	88	.358	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	72	64	.529	_
Philadelphia	71	66	.518	1½
New York	69	69	.500	4
Miami	57	80	.416	15½
Washington	57	80	.416	15½

Central Division

Milwaukee	84	55	.604	_
Cincinnati	73	66	.525	11
St. Louis	69	67	.507	13½
Chicago	64	75	.460	20
Pittsburgh	49	89	.355	34½

West Division

San Francisco	88	50	.638	_
Los Angeles	87	51	.630	1
San Diego	73	64	.533	14½
Colorado	63	75	.457	25
Arizona	45	93	.326	43

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Djokovic extends Slam bid; 1st time no US players in Open QF

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Southern United tops summer league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club wrapped up its campaign in the Dove Women's Summer League 2021 with an emphatic 13-0 victory over Shirley's Football Club B last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

With the lopsided win, Southern United finished the season with a 5-0-1 win-draw-loss record and ruled the Premier Division of the league.

Allyssya Angeles led Southern United's domination of Shirley's FC B after firing six goals. Keisha Deleon Guerrero added three goals, while Jannah Casarino, Christina Atalig, Tyana Hix, and Jenny Capayas contributed one apiece.

Southern United's demolition of Shirley's FC B came after the former had its winning streak snapped by Kanoa Football Club in Week 5 of the competition.

Kanoa slid past Southern United, 3-2, to hand the eventual champion its lone loss in the season. Irish Pagarao knocked in a pair for Kanoa, as she scored right in the first minute and in the 22nd, while Mary Kay Alferos delivered the go-ahead in the 28th. Renna Ramarui and Angeles tallied the two goals for Southern United with the former hitting the board in the 18th minute and the latter eight minutes later.

Southern United Football Club's Allyssya Angeles, left, and Kanoa Football Club's Kelsey McClellan battle for possession during their game in Week 5 of the Dove Women's Summer League 2021 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After pulling the rug under Southern United, Kanoa closed out the season with a 7-2 triumph over Shirley's FC A, 7-2, to finish second overall (4-0-2) in the final team standings.

Pagarao and Kristelle Itaas teamed up in Kanoa's fourth win. Pagarao earned a hat trick in the first half after finding the back of the net in the second, fourth, and 19th minute and gained her fourth and final goal in the 35th. Itaas notched her first goal in the 31st and delivered the last two for Kanoa after hitting her target in the 45th and 58th minute.

Shirley's FC A got its two goals from Fiona Bucalig and Joebelle Tabuena. Tabuena drew first blood for Shirley's FC A with her goal in the sixth minute, while Bucalig scored in the 69th. Shirley's FC A finished the season ranked third with its 3-0-3 mark. The team bagged its third win in Week 5 after outclassing sister squad Shirley's FC B, 8-1. Melody Johnson had three goals for Shirley's FC A, while Jasmine Phan and Gabrielle Race chipped in two each, and Bucalig added one.

Budweiser King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament homerun derby champion A.J. Lizama with Roil Soil Marketing's Shayne Villanueva.

Budweiser King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament cornhole tournament winners Ikluk Masayos and Patrick Deleon Guerrero with Roil Soil Marketing's Shayne Villanueva. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

AJ Lizama smashes 20 to win HR derby

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A.J. Lizama won the homerun derby of the Budweiser King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament last Sunday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

He beat out runner-up Reid Teregeyo and third place Rob Tudela after going yard 20 times in the competition. Lizama started out on fire, going the distance an amazing nine out of 10 times in the first round. He cooled down a bit in the second round going five out of 10 before reigniting with a 7-out-of-10 performance in the third and final round.

For topping the homerun derby, Lizama took home $170 in cash plus a Budweiser anarchy bat and a cooler bag.

"Nothing much to say… I just came out to perform what I do best. I just stayed calm and let my bat do the work," said the 25-year-old Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee.

Teregeyo settled for second place after he totaled 16 homeruns. He started off going seven out of 10 in

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Former Tagaman, XTERRA participant figures in bike accident

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former Tagaman Triathlon and XTERRA Saipan participant Arland Macasieb figured in a terrible bike accident last Sept. 4 in New Jersey and a GoFundMe account has been set up to help with his mounting medical expenses.

Triathlon Association of the CNMI president Manny Sitchon is rooting for Macasieb's recovery and said that Macasieb made a great impression on local triathletes during his stints in the Tagaman and XTERRA in the late 2000s.

"He raced in the Tagaman several times and made a decent placing inside the Top 10. In all his participation, he was the one who advised me to install an aerobar or purchase a tri-bike if I am serious with my triathlon," he said.

Due to his experience, the TRAC official even considered the 46-year-old Macasieb to serve as the CNMI National Triathlon coach

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File photo shows Arland Macasieb busting out his patented handstand while crossing the finish line of the Tagaman Triathlon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO